

ACCME's Definitions of Relevant Financial Relationships

Introduction

ASAM, as the accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME) provider, must ensure that this activity and the presentations are in full compliance with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) guidelines and Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education (ACE). All planners and presenters must complete the following financial disclosure form prior to the planning, development or presenting of an educational activity to ensure adequate review time by the ASAM CME Committee.

Glossary of Terms

Ineligible Companies

Companies that are ineligible to be accredited in the ACCME System (*ineligible companies*) are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Examples of such organizations include:

- Advertising, marketing, or communication firms whose clients are ineligible companies
- Bio-medical startups that have begun a governmental regulatory approval process
- Compounding pharmacies that manufacture proprietary compounds
- Device manufacturers or distributors
- Diagnostic labs that sell proprietary products
- Growers, distributors, manufacturers or sellers of medical foods and dietary supplements
- Manufacturers of health-related wearable products
- Pharmaceutical companies or distributors
- Pharmacy benefit managers
- Reagent manufacturers or sellers

The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be an ineligible company. Ineligible companies are prohibited from engaging in **joint providership** with accredited providers. Joint providership enables accredited providers to work with nonaccredited eligible organizations to deliver accredited education.

Eligible Organizations:

Organizations eligible to be accredited in the ACCME System (*eligible organizations*) are those whose mission and function are: (1) providing clinical services directly to patients; or (2) the education of healthcare professionals; or (3) serving as fiduciary to patients, the public, or population health; and other organizations that are not otherwise ineligible. Examples of such organizations include:

- Ambulatory procedure centers
- Blood banks
- Diagnostic labs that do not sell proprietary products
- Electronic health records companies
- Government or military agencies
- Group medical practices
- Health law firms
- Health profession membership organizations
- Hospitals or healthcare delivery systems
- Infusion centers
- Insurance or managed care companies
- Nursing homes
- Pharmacies that do not manufacture proprietary compounds
- Publishing or education companies
- Rehabilitation centers
- Schools of medicine or health science universities
- Software or game developers

Financial Relationships

Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (e.g., stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as

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employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected.

Relevant Financial Relationships

The ACCME defines "relevant financial relationships" as financial relationships in any amount occurring within the past 12 months with an ineligible company. Circumstances create a relevant financial relationship when an individual has an opportunity to affect CME content about products or services of an ineligible company with which he/she has a financial relationship. ACCME focuses on financial relationships with ineligible companies in the 12-month period preceding the time that the individual is being asked to assume a role controlling content of the CME activity. ACCME has not set a minimal dollar amount for relationships to be significant. Inherent in any amount is the incentive to maintain or increase the value of the relationship.

Clinical Condition

This is the disease state, clinical condition, or clinical area that a financial relationship relates to or impacts.