

Accreditation Updates and Changes

The ACCME/ANCC has implemented some changes that must be effect by 1/1/2022 and we are starting preliminary work to apply for Joint Accreditation (JA) for the next cycle; therefore, we want to provide you with several updates and changes.

- 1) We encourage you to apply for CME credit and Nursing contact hours for all activities in which it is appropriate. Interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) occurs “when members from two or more professions learn with, from, and about each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.” IPCE contributes to improvements in team performance, care delivery, and patient outcomes.
- 2) We ask that you consider formally adding students of the health professions or patients as planners and teachers of your activities.
- 3) D-H encourages activity directors and planners to make a concerted effort to achieve appropriate representation of women, racial/ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and other individuals who have traditionally been underrepresented in continuing education, in all D-H accredited activities.
- 4) The former *Conflict of Interest (COI) and Resolution Form* has been updated and is now called a **Financial Disclosure Form**. It is a one-page document and the resolution, now called mitigation, as a separate document called the **Mitigation Form**. The *Mitigation Form* only needs to be completed if someone has disclosed a relationship. The updated **Financial Disclosure Form and Mitigation Form** must be used for all activities that will take place after 1/1/22. If an old form is used, it will be returned and it will need to be completed a second time.
 - A. The disclosure timeframe has been extended from the prior 12 months to the prior 24 months (anyone with relationships must disclose everything from the past 24 months).
 - B. The requirement that individuals disclose the financial relationships of their spouse/partner was removed.
 - C. There is no minimum financial threshold; individuals must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies. Individuals must disclose regardless of their view of the relevance of the relationship to the education.
- 5) The *Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure the Independence of CME Activities* has been renamed *Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education*.
- 6) Terminology has been updated, commercial interests are now referred to as ineligible companies. An ineligible company is any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.
 - A. Research grants from ineligible companies are financial relationships that should be disclosed, even if the funds go to the researcher’s institution and not to the individual researcher.
 - B. Owners/employees of ineligible companies must be excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in accredited education. There are three exceptions to this exclusion—employees of ineligible companies can participate as planners or faculty in these specific situations:

- a. When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
 - b. When the content of the accredited activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
 - c. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.
- C. **Exceptions:** Accredited providers do not need to identify, mitigate, or disclose relevant financial relationships for any of the following activities:
- a. Accredited education that is non-clinical, such as leadership or communication skills training.
 - b. Accredited education where the learner group is in control of content, such as a spontaneous case conversation among peers.
 - c. Accredited self-directed education where the learner controls their educational goals and reports on changes that resulted, such as learning from teaching, remediation, or a personal development plan. When accredited providers serve as a source of information for the self-directed learner, they should direct learners only to resources and methods for learning that are not controlled by ineligible companies.
- 7) Accredited providers are responsible for ensuring that education is separate from marketing (**Exhibitors**) by ineligible companies—including advertising, sales, exhibits, and promotion—and from non-accredited education offered in conjunction with accredited continuing education.
- A. Arrangements to allow ineligible companies to market or exhibit in association with accredited education must not:
 - a. Influence any decisions related to the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the education.
 - b. Interfere with the presentation of the education.
 - c. Be a condition of the provision of financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies for the education.
 - B. The accredited provider must ensure that learners can easily distinguish between accredited education and other activities.
 - C. Live continuing education activities: Marketing, exhibits, and non-accredited education developed by or with influence from an ineligible company or with planners or faculty with unmitigated financial relationships must not occur in the educational space within 30 minutes before or after an accredited education activity. Activities that are part of the event but are not accredited for continuing education must be clearly labeled and communicated as such.
 - D. Print, online, or digital continuing education activities: Learners must not be presented with marketing while engaged in the accredited education activity. Learners must be able to engage with the accredited education without having to click through, watch, listen to, or be presented with product promotion or product-specific advertisement.
 - E. Educational materials that are part of accredited education (such as slides, abstracts, handouts, evaluation mechanisms, or disclosure information) must not contain any marketing produced by or for an ineligible company, including corporate or product logos, trade names, or product group messages.

- F. Accredited providers must receive consent from learners before sharing their names or contact information with ineligible companies or their agents.
- 8) **Educational Grants** (defined as financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies) fall in to a different category than **Exhibit Fees**. There are additional steps required when accepting educational grants. Please contact the CME/CNE office if you are considering applying for them for more details.

Resources:

- [Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education | ACCME](#)
- [CME Accreditation | Continuing Education for Professionals | Dartmouth-Hitchcock](#)

Questions?

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