

Policy Title	Restrictions for a Dartmouth Health Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activity on Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) and Community Group Practices (CGP) Campuses Policy	Policy ID	32036
Keywords	continuing, education, CE, ACE, CME, medical, CNE, nursing, learning, activity, relevant, financial, relationship, disclosure, mitigation, resolution, attestation, form, relationship, industry, commercial, interest, ineligible, company, activity, director, nurse, planner, accredited, live, activity, conference, course, symposium, regularly, scheduled, series, grand, rounds, morbidity, mortality, case, journal, club, enduring, material, online, learning, lead, planner, IPCE, JA, joint, accreditation, pharmacy, planning, committee, ACE, accredited continuing, education		

I. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to restrict the presence of non-Dartmouth Health Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) activities held at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), Community Group Practices (CGP), and/or Cheshire Medical Center/Keene Clinic campuses in order to: 1) protect Dartmouth Health’s compliance with increasingly restrictive ACE requirements from the Joint Accreditation and other accrediting bodies; 2) clarify for learners which Lead Planners, planning committees and faculty/speakers have been sanctioned by the ACE Office; and, 3) ensure the integrity of Dartmouth Health ACE activities.

II. Policy Scope

The scope of this policy includes: all Dartmouth Health employees; all individuals with an official, current faculty appointment from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth; and all employees’ and faculty members’ administrative staff. The scope of this policy also covers all planning committee members, speakers, authors, and anyone else in a position to control the content of an ACE activity.

III. Definitions

Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activity – An ACE Activity is an educational offering (e.g., Live Activity/Conference/Course/Symposium, Regularly Scheduled Series/Grand Rounds/Morbidity and Mortality/Case Conferences/Journal Clubs, Enduring Material/online learning activities) that is planned, implemented, and evaluated in accordance with the Joint Accreditation Criteria associated Dartmouth Health policies and protocols.¹

ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education – The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) Standards for Integrity and Independence are the rules that ACE providers, including Dartmouth Health, must follow. The Standards are designed to ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public; present learners with only accurate, balanced, scientifically justified recommendations; assure healthcare professionals and teams that they can trust accredited continuing education to help them deliver safe, effective, cost-effective, compassionate care that is

based on best practice and evidence; and create a clear, unbridgeable separation between accredited continuing education and marketing and sales.²

Lead Planner – Person responsible for oversight of the educational quality and financial integrity of the activity. See Lead Planner Eligibility for a Dartmouth Health Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activity Policy and Roles and Responsibilities of Lead Planners, Coordinators, and Center for Learning and Professional Development Staff for Live Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activities.

Ineligible Company – Any entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

IV. Policy Statement

Dartmouth Health is committed to providing ACE activities that are linked to quality and safety, are effective in improving interprofessional practice, are based on valid content, and are independent of ineligible companies. Our ACE activities are for scientific and educational purposes only and will in no way promote products and services of the ineligible companies either in the content or selection of topics.

To that end, Dartmouth Health does not allow on the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and/or CGP campuses any ACE activities other than those activities accredited through the Center for Learning and Professional Development (CLPD) ACE Office. This restriction applies only to accredited activities that are held at DHMC and Clinics, including the CGPs.

Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the Medical Director & Associate Dean for Interprofessional Educational Practice (IPEP), Vice President of CLPD or Director of ACE. Request must be made during the initial planning (prior to development of the content), but no later than four months in advance.

V. References

¹ *Joint Accreditation Criteria* – [Joint Accreditation Criteria | Joint Accreditation.](#)

² *ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education* – [Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education | ACCME](#)

Responsible Owner:		Contact:	Melinda Potter
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Related Polices & Procedures:	Code of Ethical Conduct-D-H Lead Planner Eligibility for a Dartmouth Health Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activity Policy		
Related Job Aids:	Guidelines for an Exhibitor’s Role in an In-Person or Virtual Dartmouth Health Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activity Roles and Responsibilities of Lead Planners, Coordinators, and Center for Learning and Professional Development Staff for Live Accredited Continuing Education (ACE) Activities Job Aid		