

Policy on Identifying Bias in CME Programs and Follow-up Procedures

Purpose

Bridgeport Hospital has adopted the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support. In accordance with these standards every effort is made to ensure the independence of CME activities. This policy outlines procedures which should be followed in the event of alleged commercial bias in accordance with ACCME Standard 2 – Resolution of Personal Conflicts of Interest.

Policy

CME Activities are planned based on the identification of professional practice gaps of the learners and the educational needs arising from those gaps.

Content planners and course faculty are required to attest that decisions are made free of the control of commercial interests (Standard 1.1), commercial bias is not present (Standard 2.1) and content presented is scientifically accurate, based on evidence, that treatments discussed are appropriate, and that trade names of medical devices and drugs are not used (Standards 5.1, 5.2). Content planners will review speaker slides prior to the CME event in an attempt to identify outward or perceived bias. If a speaker refuses to disclose a conflict of interest, he or she will be not be allowed to present (Standard 2.2).

Program evaluations contain questions to demonstrate that learners did not perceive commercial bias in the materials form a specific teacher/author. If bias is perceived, this information is provided to the course director(s), planners, faculty and members of the CMEC so that a corrective action plan can be initiated and outcomes of the plan monitored.

Assuring Independence of Curriculum

Bridgeport Hospital develops CME activities independent of commercial interest. Commercial interests cannot take the role of joint or non-accredited

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sponsor (Standard 1.2) and are not allowed to be involved in any of the following activities in accordance with Standard 1.1:

- Identification of practice gaps and needs that become the foundation of an activity
- Preparation of or input into learning objective
- Selection of presentation content
- Recommendation of persons to serve as faculty for an activity or any other persons that will be in a position to control the content of an activity
- Influence over the selection of educational design of an activity
- Select of vendors or methods for the evaluation of an activity
- Requests for “technical review” of content of a CME activity

Process

- Respective department leadership/experts should be asked to weigh in on the alleged bias.
- Should there be concern that a program contains bias, the DME will appoint a subcommittee of the CME to review a tape of the program and render an opinion.
- Measures to address any departure from the ACCME standards will be the decision of the DME after through discuss with the CMEC.
- If bias is detected the CMEC will ask the department that sponsored the program to develop a corrective action plan to address the issue.
- The corrective action plan will be presented to and approved by the CMEC.

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