FREE
Faculty Resources for Educational Excellence

Upcoming Events
Download our **3-months-at-a-glance calendar**.

Managing Conflict of Interest in CME Presentations: How to Document and Mitigate Potential Conflict when Developing a CME Eligible Event

*by **Apostolos "Paul" Dallas, MD, MACP** Director, Carilion Clinic Continuing Medical Education*

When offering CME as part of a workshop or presentation, it is imperative that compliance standards are kept at the forefront of session preparation, are understood, and ultimately followed. One common compliance standard that can generate questions and concerns for both speakers and providers is the disclosure of potential speaker conflict(s). The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) is clear on issues of disclosure and the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) has found against providers of CME who are not in compliance with the standards related to reporting potential conflicts. Below is some guidance to help you navigate the mitigation of conflict:

1. Keep in mind that it is the speaker's responsibility to **disclose all potential conflicts**, whether they deem them relevant or not. The new ACCME standards take the determination of relevance away from the speaker. Speakers are asked to make disclosure in writing via a disclosure form that asks specific questions regarding any potential conflicts of interest (COI).

2. Once this document is completed, signed, and submitted by the speaker, it is then the CME provider's responsibility to **determine relevance and mitigate** the potential COI. This process should be documented in a way that an outside reviewer can clearly see that the provider engaged with the declared potential conflicts and made a determination. Even if the speaker's presentation has nothing to do with the potential conflicts, documentation must be available that demonstrates providers performed their due diligence in reviewing materials relevant to the presentation to ensure no conflict emerges

as part of the presentation.

3. Finally, the provider's determination of relevance/ mitigation must be **relayed to the audience** prior to participants engaging in the learning activity. Missing this critical step could lead to citation and accreditation issues.

If you have any questions regarding COI and impacts on CME offerings, please contact the Office of Continuing Professional Development for further information and guidance. We welcome your questions and encourage you to reach out.

Resources from the Office of Continuing Medical Education

- **Overview of the CME Program**
- **CME Program Mission Statement**
- **CME Application**
- **Contact Information**

Office of Continuing Professional Development (OCPD)

Shari Whicker, EdD, MEd
Senior Director, Office of Continuing Professional Development
Assistant Dean, Faculty Development
Director, Teaching Excellence Academy for Collaborative Healthcare (TEACH)
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Carilion Clinic
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Professional Development
Mariah Rudd, MEd, Director, Office of Continuing Professional Development
Sarah Harendt, PhD, MS, Manager, Education & Faculty Development
JT Addair, Curricular & Media Coordinator
Deborah Ferron, Administrative Coordinator

Continuing Medical Education
Paul Dallas, MD, MACP, Director
Linda Wells, CHCP, Senior Manager
Paula Robertson, CHCP, Senior Program Specialist
Carol Gibson, Program Specialist
Susan Curtiss, AS, Department Secretary

Email OCPD or click the button below to visit our website.

Office of Continuing Professional Development

CARILIONCLINIC | VTC School of Medicine
Office of Continuing Professional Development