



STRONGERTOGETHER

**Serving the Needs of Patients and
the Public through Independent
Accredited Continuing Education**

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Disclosure

- I have no financial relationships with defined ACCME ineligible companies.

ACCME and AMA Definition of Continuing Medical Education (CME)

- *CME consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public or the profession.*

Accredited CME

- Addresses every medical specialty for physicians working in clinical care, research, healthcare administration, executive leadership, or other areas of medicine
- Designed to be relevant to physician needs, practice-based, and effective
- Helps physicians meet requirements for maintenance of licensure, maintenance of certification, credentialing, membership in professional societies, and other professional privileges
- Provides a protected space for physicians to learn and teach without commercial influence

Roles of the ACCME and AMA in Accredited CME



- Accredits organizations that provide continuing medical education for physicians
- Does not accredit individual educational activities
- Is a voluntary system, based on professional self-regulation and peer review



- AMA PRA Credit System demonstrates a physician has participated in CME activities that meet the requirements of state medical boards, medical specialty societies, specialty boards, hospital medical staffs, the Joint Commission, insurance groups, and others.



Roles of the ACCME and AMA in Accredited CME

- Accredited CME providers are expected to ensure that activities certified for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*[™] meet all requirements of both the AMA and their accreditor.

ACCME Accreditation Rules

- **Accreditation Criteria**
 - Core Accreditation Criteria
 - Accreditation with Commendation Criteria
- **Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education**
- **ACCME Policies**
 - CME Program and Activity Administration
 - Joint Providership
 - *Providership of a CME activity by one or more accredited and one or more nonaccredited organizations*

ACCME Accreditation Rules

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TYPE IN KEYWORD

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- Any ▾

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ZIP

ACCREDITATION

- Any
- ACCME-accredited Provider
- State-accredited Provider
- Jointly accredited provider

MORE PROVIDER DETAIL

- Accredited with Commendation
- Participates in joint providership

RESET

SUBMIT

[Currently Accredited CME Providers \(April 2020\)](#) ▾

[Formerly Accredited CME Providers \(August 2017\)](#) ▾

Enhance Interprofessional Education Opportunities for Healthcare Teams

- Opportunity to be simultaneously accredited to provide medical, nursing, pharmacy, and optometry continuing education activities through a single, unified application process, fee structure, and set of accreditation standards
- Jointly accredited providers may award single profession or interprofessional continuing education credit (IPCE) to physicians, nurses, pharmacists, PAs, optometrists, psychologists, and social workers without needing to obtain separate accreditations



JOINT ACCREDITATION™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education Collaborators

- Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- American Academy of PAs (AAPA)
- American Psychological Association (APA)
- Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry's Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (ARBO/COPE)
- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

- Independence is the **cornerstone** of accredited continuing education
- Accredited continuing education must provide healthcare professionals with a protected space to learn, teach, and engage in scientific discourse free from influence from organizations that may have an incentive to insert commercial bias into education

Role of the Accredited Provider in Ensuring Independence in Accredited Continuing Education:

- Navigating the complex interface between industry and the health professions
- Ensuring that healthcare professionals have access to learning and skill development activities that are trustworthy and are based on best practices and high-quality evidence
- Developing activities that only serve the needs of patients and not the interests of industry

ACCME Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

- 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
- Create a clear, unbridgeable separation between accredited continuing education and marketing and sales

Organizations Eligible to be Accredited in the ACCME System

- Organizations whose mission and function are:
 - Providing clinical services directly to patients
 - The education of healthcare professionals
 - Serving as fiduciary to patients, the public, or population health
 - Other organizations that are not otherwise ineligible

Examples of Eligible Organizations

- 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 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

Ineligible Companies that Cannot be Accredited in the ACCME System

- 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 Ineligible Companies

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

Owners and Employees of Ineligible Companies

- Have unresolvable financial relationships and must be excluded from participating as planners or faculty, and must not be allowed to influence or control any aspect of the planning, delivery, or evaluation of accredited continuing education, except in the limited circumstances outlined in Standard 3.2
 - When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company
 - 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.
 - 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

Standards

- Standard 1: Ensure Content is Valid Standard 1 applies to all accredited continuing education

- Standard 2: Prevent Commercial Bias and Marketing in Accredited Continuing Education

- **Standard 3: Identify, Mitigate, and Disclose Relevant Financial Relationships**

- Standard 4: Manage Commercial Support Appropriately

- Standard 5: Manage Ancillary Activities Offered in Conjunction with Accredited Continuing Education

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

- STEP 1: Before you begin planning your education, collect information from all planners, faculty, and others who would be in positions to control content. Ask them to provide information about all their financial relationships with ineligible companies (based on the ACCME definition) over the **previous 24 months**.

Examples of Financial Relationships

Employee

Researcher

Consultant

Advisor

Speaker

Independent contractor

Royalties or patent beneficiary

Executive role

Ownership interest

Note: Individual stocks and stock options should be disclosed; diversified mutual funds do not need to be disclosed. Research funding from ineligible companies should be disclosed by the principal or named investigator even if that individual's institution receives the research grant and manages the funds.

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

- STEP 2: Review the disclosed relationships and exclude owners and employees of ineligible companies from participating as planners, faculty, or other roles unless the educational activity meets one of the exceptions listed below:
 - When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company
 - 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.
 - 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

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

- STEP 3: Determine which financial relationships are relevant to the content of the continuing education activity mitigate those relevant financial relationships to prevent commercial bias
 - **Financial relationships are relevant if the following three conditions are met for the individual who will control content of the education:**
 - ✓ A financial relationship, in any amount, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company.
 - ✓ The financial relationship existed during the past 24 months
 - ✓ The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

- STEP 4: Mitigate relevant financial relationships to prevent commercial bias
 - Examples of mitigation steps for planners
 - ✓ Divest the financial relationship
 - ✓ Recusal from controlling aspects of planning and content with which there is a financial relationship
 - ✓ Peer review of planning decisions by persons without relevant financial relationships
 - Examples of mitigation steps for those in control of content
 - ✓ Divest the financial relationship
 - ✓ Peer review of content by persons without relevant financial relationships
 - ✓ Attest that clinical recommendations are evidence-based and free of commercial bias

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationship

- STEP 5: Disclose the presence or absence of all relevant financial relationships to learners prior to the activity
 - Names of the individuals with relevant financial relationships
 - Names of the ineligible companies with which they have relationships
 - Nature of the relationships
 - A statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated



Questions?