



Competing Interest and Disclosure Policy

INTRODUCTION

Decisions by the officers, committees and section executives of the Canadian Paediatric Society have far reaching significance and consequences. Position statements, practice points, publications and recommendations have implications for the practice of paediatrics and the health of children and youth throughout Canada.

Although it is assumed that all Board and committee/section executive members of the Society act honestly and with integrity when making recommendations concerning Society policies and actions, there are potential and real competing interests which may affect an individual's opinion or may appear to make that opinion self-serving.

Potential competing interests are defined as situations which might not allow for impartial or objective determinations. These situations include, but are not limited to, relationships with products, devices, or companies such as pharmaceutical, consumer goods or equipment manufacturers. This would also include the receipt of research support or lecture honoraria from such companies.

The Society does not wish to exclude individuals who are experts in given fields from participating in policy formulation and recommendations merely because they have competing interests due to their expertise. However, the validity of Society recommendations and its reputation are based on the confidence in its integrity and the belief by members and the public alike that policies are unbiased and based only on concerns for the best interests of children, their families, and their health care providers.

DISCLOSURE

The Canadian Paediatric Society has the following policy concerning disclosure of potential and real competing interest:

- * The Society wishes all points of view to be vigorously and actively expressed in the formulation of policies and recommendations at all levels in the organization.
- * The policies of the Society, its position statements, practice points and other recommendations should be as free as possible from personal bias and outside influence not related to the best interests of children, youth and families.
- * It is expected that all Board members, committee and section executive members, and consultants to the Society will **openly** disclose any real and perceived competing interests and complete a *Full Disclosure Statement Form*. When conflict exists which may affect objectivity, the appropriate committee, section, task force, or the Board of Directors, etc., should be informed in a timely manner. In discussion with the Board, a decision will be made as to the need for the person to recuse themselves from the activity.

RESTRICTING THOSE WITH CONFLICTS

If the chair of the affected entity finds that the circumstances surrounding the conflict warrant the imposition of greater restrictions than those outlined above, the interested individual may be excluded from some or all of the discussions on the matter under consideration or asked to resign from either the outside position giving rise to the conflict or the CPS position affected by the conflict. If the conflict is not likely to have any impact on the CPS matter in question, the chair may waive some or all of the restrictions. In the event that the interested person is the chair, or a greater level of exclusion appears warranted (e.g., resignation), the CPS Executive and Executive Director should determine the level of restriction. In the event of a dispute respecting the appropriate restrictions in any situation involving a real or potential competing interest with a CPS matter, the CPS Board of Directors shall have the final authority to determine whether, in fact, a conflict exists and how that conflict should be managed or resolved.

In all cases, conflicts and their restrictions and other disposition need to be officially documented in an appropriate set of minutes.

COMPETING INTEREST AND CME

As a CME provider accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), the CPS must ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigor in all its individually sponsored and jointly sponsored educational activities. Everyone who is in a position to control the content of an educational activity (e.g., faculty, authors, planning committees, editorial boards, etc.) must disclose to the CPS all financial and other relationships with any commercial interest or that might otherwise give rise to a competing interest.

The Canadian Medical Association Policy, "[Physicians and the Pharmaceutical Industry \(Update 2007\)](#)" indicates that: *CME/CPD organizers and individual physician presenters are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CME/CPD activities. Organizers and individual presenters must disclose to the participants at their CME/CPD events any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products mentioned at the event or with manufacturers of competing products.*

A competing interest may occur in situations where the personal and professional interests of individuals may have actual, potential and apparent influence over their judgment and actions. All financial or "in kind" relationships (not only those relevant to the subject being discussed) encompassing the previous two (2) years must be disclosed. Disclosure must be done verbally and displayed in writing on a slide at the beginning of a presentation. Failure to disclose or false disclosure may require the Planning Committee to replace the Speaker.

Any individual who refuses to disclose such financial relationships will be disqualified from being a planning committee member, faculty, or an author of CME, and cannot have control of, or responsibility for, the development, management, presentation, or evaluation of the CME activity.

The CPS has implemented a mechanism to identify and resolve all competing interests prior to the education activity being delivered to learners (*Procedure - Handling competing interest for CME programs*).

PUBLISHING DISCLOSURES

Paediatrics & Child Health and the Canadian Paediatric Society require authors to disclose any and all potential, perceived or actual competing interests which include but are not limited to specific financial interest, relationship and affiliations relevant to the topic(s) discussed in the submitted manuscript. These could be employment/affiliation, grants or funding, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or option, expert testimony, royalties, or patent files, received or pending. This policy is not intended to prevent authors with financial or other interests from publishing their work. However, it is the journal's

responsibility to provide reviewers and readers with full disclosure to ensure scientific integrity. Disclosures will be published with accepted articles if deemed appropriate by the editors.

ACTING OR SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF CPS

All CPS officers, members of the Board of Directors, and others acting on behalf of the CPS must avoid being influenced by any competing interest when acting on behalf of the CPS. This obligation includes an obligation to preserve the confidentiality of all information concerning the CPS that is not publicly known or disseminated. No one acting on behalf of the CPS should use privileged CPS information to benefit personally or to gain advantage in opportunities competing with CPS interests.

Those acting on behalf of the CPS may be called upon to speak to the CPS membership or the general public on the Society's behalf. These individuals must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All messages disseminated by and information presented should be in line with CPS policy, mission and Code of Ethics.
- The CPS is committed to providing accurate and relevant information based on sound science and the best available evidence. All education materials prepared (e.g. position statements, practice points, annual conference programming, etc.) should be evidence-based and free of industry bias.

All media requests must be arranged through the CPS. Any interviews that are conducted without the knowledge and consent of the CPS are not considered to be an authoritative representation of CPS policy.

The CPS does not wish to exclude individuals who are experts in given fields from participating as spokespeople. However, CPS members, the media and the public trust the CPS to be an objective source, concerned only with the best interests of children, youth and their families. Therefore it is expected that all CPS spokespeople will openly disclose to the CPS Media Relations Coordinator any real or perceived competing interests before agreeing to speak to a journalist on behalf of the CPS.

DISCLOSING COMPETING INTEREST

All competing interest information will be published in the most appropriate format, including but not limited to CPS website, program/project materials, verbally at live events, etc. Information will be updated when *Full Disclosure Statement Forms* are updated.

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