

# CPD Conflict of Interest Policy

The Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR) is committed to promoting the highest standard of patient care, lifelong learning, research, and helping radiologists contribute to the very best health care for patients. As an approved accrediting agent of the Royal College, the CAR accredits continuing professional development (CPD) activities developed by other physician organizations. These recognized quality programs (self-initiated or initiated by others) support physicians in enhancing their knowledge, competencies and skills which can be applied towards their Maintenance of Certification requirements.

In accordance with the Royal College's [National Standard](#), the status of accredited CPD provider requires the CAR to have ethical standards regarding its accredited CPD activities. As such, all CAR accredited CPD activities where financial and in-kind support is accepted must be free of commercial bias or influence and respond to the identified needs (perceived or unperceived) of the target audience.

To address concerns of commercial bias or influence, the CAR promotes and adheres to the following *CPD Conflict of Interest* policy for its own activities and for the educational activities for which it provides accreditation approvals:

- All organizing committee or scientific planning committee (SPC) members, speakers, moderators, facilitators and authors involved in an educational activity are required to complete and sign a *Disclosure of Conflict of Interest* statement to identify any and all relationships with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations over the previous two years.
- All disclosures must be made to the audience, regardless of any disclosed relationship.
- Speakers must disclose conflicts and/or relationships verbally and in writing at the beginning of a presentation. All other individual's conflict must be disclosed either in writing on a slide at the beginning of a presentation or be included in the written conference (activity) materials. The CAR provides a template for *Disclosure of Conflict of Interest* to all speakers for its educational activities.
- All disclosures related to eLearning CPD activities available through the CAR's learning management system, RAD Academy, must be identified in the description and overview of the activity.
- The SPC is responsible to review all disclosed financial relationships of speakers, moderators, facilitators and authors in advance of the CPD activity to determine whether action is required to manage potential or real conflicts of interest. For consideration when deliberating (potential) conflicts of interest:
  - CPD contributions are commercial decisions (principles of influence: reciprocity, authority, social proof, etc.)
  - Is the conflict germane to the content or a recommendation? If yes, contributors and/or authors should recuse themselves or be asked to be removed (or replaced) from the activity.
  - In the case of CAR activities subject to accreditation, all disclosures must be formally accepted by a consensus of 75% of the SPC members to be considered. The SPC members must indicate if a bias or conflict which needs to be addressed in the *Conflict of Interest Management* form.

- Those who indicate a relationship with a for-profit and/or not-for-profit organization where the potential to influence the content of the educational activity exists will be asked to submit their presentation materials and slides prior to the event and/or activity. If a bias is detected, the speaker will be asked to alter the slides or handouts in question and counselled to either not discuss the biased point or coached on how to discuss the point to avoid the bias.
- If an activity or presentation was found not to comply with the ethical standards, the speaker would be given the opportunity to revise their content. If the content could not be revised, or if the speaker declined, the presentation/activity would be removed from the program. Alternatively, the SPC may opt to include the session however, it would not be available for accreditation. Clarification to the audience would have to be made indicating that the selected session was not eligible for accreditation prior to the event or activity.
- Evaluation forms are included with every activity or session to determine if attendees deemed any commercial bias. After the event, each speaker will receive the results of the evaluation specific only to their session. This assists the speakers to correct themselves if the results show an impression of commercial bias when there wasn't to be one. Evaluation results are reviewed by the CAR Learning and Development department, CPD Standing Committee, and/or by the Scientific Planning Committee, depending on the nature of the activity.

From an organizer's perspective, if a speaker is asked to present again, the commercial bias can be further discussed. Presentations must be verified by the CAR Learning and Development department or the organizing committee (SPC) prior to a future speaking engagement. If a speaker does not use this information to better prepare a balanced presentation, the CAR will not ask this speaker to return.

DATE	VERSION	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
August 2011	1.0	Last revision date
Nov. 20, 2019	2.0	Language has been updated in accordance with the Royal College <i>National Standard</i> . Additional changes to reflect new CAR brand colours