



Policy on Definition of Commercial Interest

All educational activities the American Academy of CME (Academy) certifies for CME/CE, are developed and delivered free of any and all commercial control. There can be no staff or consultants of a commercial interest involved in the development and delivery of the content.

The Academy utilizes the Accreditation Council for Continuing Education's (ACCME) definition of a commercial interest as, "any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients." After August 2009, no accredited provider will be able to work in joint sponsorship with non-accredited providers that produce, market, re-sell, or distribute health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients

The ACCME does not consider the following organizations to be a commercial interest; therefore they may participate as a joint sponsor with the Academy:

- 501-C Non-profit organizations (*Note: Those that advocate for 'commercial interests' as a 501c organization cannot serve in the role of joint sponsor, but they can be a commercial supporter.*)
- Government organizations
- Non-health care related companies
- Liability insurance providers
- Health insurance providers
- Group medical practices
- For-profit hospitals
- For profit rehabilitation centers
- For-profit nursing homes

All other non-accredited organizations wishing to joint sponsor with the Academy will be required to provide a description of their corporate structure, including an organizational chart that identifies the reporting structure of all employees. The organization must also attest in writing that it does not provide any service not certified by an accredited provider (i.e. accredited by ACCME, ANCC, ACPE, AOA, AAFP, CDR, or other recognized healthcare professional accrediting agency) to a commercial interest. If the non-accredited organization is owned by, or is a sister company to, another company that is considered a commercial interest (based upon the previous definition), the Academy will require documentation of an appropriate firewall between all companies. The Academy may submit all documentation to the ACCME for an official determination of the company's capability to be a joint sponsor.

Policy 9.0

The ACCME has set a deadline of August 2009 as the date by which all organizations involved in joint sponsorship to modify their corporate structures so that the CME component of their organization will be an independent entity. After August 2009, any accredited provider will not be able to work in joint sponsorship with non-accredited provider that produces, markets, re-sells, or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.