

## Postgraduate Education Guidelines for Interaction with Industry

### Preamble

At all times, Postgraduate trainees are guided by the Canadian Medical Association's Code of Ethics (<http://www.cma.ca/code-of-ethics>). Interactions between Postgraduate trainees and industry can be complex and therefore, all interactions must be within the fundamental principles of medical practice ethics. This includes the trainee's primary obligation to the patient and the advancement of health.

### Definition:

Postgraduate trainee (or trainee) – refers to both Residents and Clinical Fellows

### General Principles

1. The primary objective of professional interactions between physicians and industry is to support education and research. The support should be unrestricted with no input into educational objectives or content.
2. The Physician's primary obligation is to the patient. Relationships with industry are inappropriate if they negatively affect the of the physician-patient relationship.

### At the Program Level

1. The Residency or fellowship program should not facilitate access to postgraduate trainees by industry representatives for the purpose of marketing their products.
2. Residency or fellowship programs should not be party to trainees being the beneficiaries of non-educational contributions from industry.
3. Industry representatives may be invited by the program to submit educational materials for sponsored events. The program organizers are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and appropriateness of the material and its distribution.
4. All funds from a commercial source should be in the form of an unrestricted educational grant payable to the institution or organization sponsoring the event.
5. As part of the bioethics curriculum within programs, an attempt should be made to discuss physician/industry relationships and conflicts of interest in an academic manner.
6. The ultimate decision on organization, content and choice of activities will remain in the hands of the educators/organizers.
7. CME events with industry funding should acknowledge the financial or other aid received, with no specific identification of company products.

8. CME organizers and their delegates must not be in a position of conflict by virtue of any affiliation with the company of companies that fund CME activities
9. Involvement in industry sponsored research activities must be approved by Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board (HIREB)
10. While it is understood that these are the guidelines that will apply to all postgraduate programs, it is also understood that each program may need to adapt them to fit local circumstances.

### **At the Trainee Level**

1. the trainee must disclose any situation where there may be a real or perceived connection with industry that could influence their judgment and independence.
2. The trainee should avoid interactions with industry which would put them in a position of potential conflict.

### **References**

Canadian Medical Association CMA Policy: Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry  
<http://www.cma.ca/code-of-ethics>

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) MD Relations with Drug Companies  
<http://www.cpso.on.ca/policies/policies/default.aspx?ID=1832>