

Conflict of Interest



What is a Conflict of Interest?

- A conflict of interest arises when a secondary objective (i.e., influence to choose one alternative over another) could affect the performance of your organizational role.
- Potential for financial gain is one of many possible incentives that can lead to bias in a *subjective activity*, often *subtle and unrecognized* by you.



When does an ethical issue occur?

An ethical issue occurs when a choice becomes self-serving, rather than serving the best interest of others, and the choice results in a moral compromise.*

*Source - *Orthopaedic Nursing*, April 2008, Volume 27 Number 2, page 135- 139, "Ethics: Conflicts of Interest: Nurses at Risk!"



Conflict of Interest Examples

- Physicians seeing sales representatives when there are previously scheduled patient appointments, and patients are waiting.

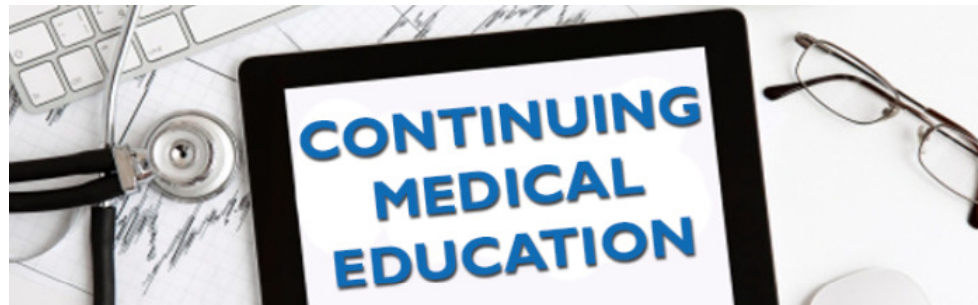


Conflict of Interest Examples

- Vendor or supplier sponsored lunches.



Conflict of Interest Examples



- Attending training sessions sponsored by vendors or suppliers (sometimes to obtain medical education requirements), knowing that more than evidence-based practice will be discussed.

Conflict of Interest Examples

- **Honorariums** - "There have been several studies now that even small gifts from industry to doctors influences their decision making," he said. "Even the smallest of gifts ... can influence prescribing practices. And certainly, when you get into the larger amounts, when someone is getting huge consulting fees for doing little work, the influence is great. All of that, of course, drives up the cost of health care." Oregon Health & Science University's chief integrity officer, [Gary Chiodo, told the Oregonian in Portland that scrutiny of the relationships between doctors and companies is healthy.](#)

So, why does it matter?

Patient First

We should guard ourselves against outside influences that may jeopardize our patients' safety or quality of care or take time away from our patients.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

- Failure to disclose a potential conflict could result in disciplinary action.
- Failure to report a known potential conflict could result in disciplinary action.
- Misinterpretation of the policy will not excuse a violation.