



Ohio Nurses Association

Key Steps for the Identification, Mitigation, and Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

Based on Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education

If the following statement applies to the education, you **DO NOT** identify, mitigate, or disclose relevant financial relationships for the activity:

- It will only address a non-clinical topic (e.g., leadership or communication skills training).

If this does not apply:

STEP 1: Financial Disclosure

Before you begin planning your education, collect information from all members of the planning committee, all faculty, and anyone who would be able to control content. Ask them to provide information about **all** their financial relationships with ineligible companies over the previous **24 months**. *There is no minimum financial threshold; individuals must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies.*

- **Definition:** Ineligible companies are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients. Examples can be found at: <https://www.accme.org/accreditation-rules/standards-for-integrity-independence-accredited-ce/eligibility>

STEP 2: Review all relationships and **exclude owners and employees of ineligible companies from participating as a nurse planner, and faculty, or other roles** unless the educational activity meets one of the exceptions listed below.

There are only three exceptions that allow for owners and/or employees of ineligible companies to participate as planners or faculty in continuing education that awards contact hours.

1. When the content of the activity is **not related** to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
2. When the content of the activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
3. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

STEP 3: Mitigation Worksheet

Determine which financial relationships are **relevant** to the content of the continuing education activity, **mitigate** those relevant financial relationships to prevent commercial bias, and **disclose** the presence or absence of all relevant financial relationships to learners prior to the activity.

- A. Determine **relevant financial relationships** for all who will be in control of educational content. Financial relationships are relevant if the following three conditions are met for the individual who will control content of the education:
 - a. A financial relationship, in **any amount**, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company.
 - b. The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship.
 - c. The financial relationship **existed** during the past **24 months**.

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- B. **Mitigate** relevant financial relationships prior to individuals assuming their roles in the educational activity.
 - a. Use the **Mitigation Worksheet** to implement mitigation strategies appropriate to their role(s) in the educational activity.
- C. Before the learner engages in the education, **disclose** to learners the presence or absence of relevant financial relationships for all persons in control of content.

What gets disclosed to learners before the educational activity?

| If there are NO relevant financial relationships: <i>Inform learners that nurse planners, content experts', faculty, and others in control of content (either individually or as a group) have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.</i> | If there ARE relevant financial relationships: <i>Disclose name(s) of the individuals, name of the ineligible company(ies) with which they have a relevant financial relationship(s), the nature of the relationship(s), and a statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.</i> | If there WERE relevant financial relationships: If the speaker had a relationship in the last 24 months but it has been divested. <i>Disclose name(s) of the individuals, name of the ineligible company(ies) with which they had a relevant financial relationship(s), the nature of the relationship(s), and a statement that all relevant financial relationships have been divested.</i> |
|---|---|--|
| Examples | Example | Example |
| <i>No one with the ability to control content of this activity has a relevant financial relationship(s) to disclose with an ineligible company.</i> | <p><i>No one with the ability to control content of this activity has a relevant financial relationship to disclose except Nicolas Garcia, faculty for this educational event, is on the speakers' bureau for XYZ Device Company.</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Yvonne Gbeho, presenter for this educational event, has received a research grant from ABC Pharmaceuticals.</i></p> <p><i>All of the relevant financial relationships listed for these individuals have been mitigated.</i></p> | <i>No one with the ability to control content of this activity has a relevant financial relationship except Jim Smith, author of this activity, who had stock in ABC company. This relevant financial relationship has been divested.</i> |



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Relevant Financial Relationship Determination

Do NOT identify, mitigate, or disclose relevant financial relationships if content is nonclinical, not related to clinical care or knowledge, only

Clinical Topics Only ask yourself:

1. Does the person have the ability to control the content of the activity?
2. Does the person have a financial relationship with an ineligible company in the past 24 months?
3. Are the products of the ineligible company related to the topic?

If the answer is yes to all of these questions you must complete the process to identify, mitigate, and disclose relevant financial relationships. If the answer is no to any of these questions, then there is nothing to mitigate for that person.

An ineligible company is entity whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients

Financial relationships are relevant if the following three conditions are met for the prospective person who will control content of the education:

- A financial relationship, in any amount, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company
- The financial relationship existed during the past 24 months
- The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship

Exclude owners and employees of ineligible companies from participating as planners, faculty, or other roles unless the educational activity meets one of these exceptions. **There are only three exceptions that allow for owners and/or employees of ineligible companies to participate as planners or faculty in continuing education activities that award contact hours.**

1. When the content of the activity is **not related** to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
2. When the content of the activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
3. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.