



Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) Policy on the Dissemination of CAG Material

ISSUE

The CAG produces and/or publishes a number of materials in support of the membership. For example, this might include educational programs, clinical practice guidelines, or position statements. In many instances, opportunities exist for the CAG to work with our partners to further disseminate/publish such materials and/or the CAG may be asked to partner with industry to produce educational material.

In order to ensure that further dissemination maintains the intent of the original publication, the CAG provides the following policy.

This policy applies to any dissemination process whereby CAG material, or parts thereof, is not distributed by the CAG, yet maintains reference to the CAG.

PROCESS

1. The reference in this policy to *CAG material* includes, but is not limited to, for example, clinical practice guidelines, position statements or papers, education program content, and website content.
2. In general, the following rules apply:
 - a) In the situation where a partner wishes to work with the CAG around dissemination, this will only be entertained in the situation whereby the CAG is approached and engaged fully in development and implementation of the initiative. The CAG is very unlikely to become involved with material or an initiative which is ongoing or finalized.
 - b) In line with the CAG Corporate Sponsorship program, Benefactor Corporate Sponsors of the CAG will be provided with the first right of refusal on initiatives.
 - c) In situations where co-developed accredited educational programs are being proposed, both Benefactor and Partner Corporate Sponsors may wish to utilize the free accreditation time allotted within the sponsorship package, otherwise a fee for accreditation review and approval will also apply as stipulated under the Maintenance of Certification Application at <http://www.cag-acg.org/education/accreditation.aspx>.
 - d) In the case of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), requests for dissemination **will not** be entertained from parties that were not sponsors of the CPG development/consensus process.

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- e) In the case of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), requests for dissemination **will not** be entertained from parties that were not sponsors of the CPG development/consensus process.
3. The CAG **must be** presented with a proposal, inclusive of the project details, timeline and budget, in the instance where another party wishes to further disseminate **CAG material** that retains any reference to the CAG.
4. The CAG will review and consider all proposals. Proposals will be considered in accordance with the following:
 - b) Maintenance and application of original CAG content
 - c) Applicability, considering the needs of the membership
5. A subcommittee comprised of a representative of the Clinical Affairs, Education, and Communication Committees (and any other ad-hoc positions required such as Research, Practice Affairs, Ethics, etc.) will be engaged to review and consider proposals. This sub-committee will report to the Chair of Clinical Affairs for a final decision.
6. It is anticipated that the process for review and response will be timely and will not exceed three to four months from initiation to final decision. Proposals should be submitted accordingly to meet overall desired project timelines.
7. There must be complete disclosure in any published material regarding content development and any interest in the product/drug/area being presented in the material. The enclosed Disclosure Form (Appendix 1) must be completed and retained on file in the CAG National Office for any CAG member involved in such initiatives. An author of an original material (for example, Clinical Practice Guideline) may be engaged in the dissemination review and approval process, provided other reviewers are included who were not involved in development of the original material. In the case of a single-sponsored guideline/material, it is mandatory that other reviewers, not involved in the development of the original material, be engaged. Any person involved in production or dissemination of material, and having been paid for such services, will not participate in any CAG/partner initiative arising from the same except in unusual circumstances with the approval of the CAG Executive.
8. The fee schedule is as follows:
 - a. Benefactor and Partner Corporate Sponsors of the CAG have benefits that would negate an additional fee associated with proposals for accredited educational events. Those without these Corporate Sponsor benefits should visit this link <http://www.cag-acg.org/education/accreditation.aspx> to review the guidelines surrounding accreditation.
 - b. The CAG will charge a submission fee of \$500.00, for the review and consideration of any proposal. This fee must accompany the submission of a proposal, and is non-refundable.
 - c. Upon CAG acceptance to partner on a proposal, a fee equal to 10% of the all-inclusive proposal budget estimate (minus the submission fee) will be charged. This fee reimburses the CAG for time spent in administration surrounding the initiative as well as committee access, expertise, and review time for working forward the proposal.

APPENDIX 1

FINANCIAL INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORMS

Objective:

The purpose of this guideline is to provide guidance about disclosure for individuals performing program related tasks including speakers at CAG accredited events. Use it to assist in insuring you are not in actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest over the past 24 months

Definitions:

1. An actual conflict of interest occurs when outside interests or connections (business, personal, professional, volunteer or other) influence your ability to act with integrity, objectivity, and independence in regards to the assigned task.
2. An apparent conflict of interest occurs when outside interests or connections (business, personal, professional, volunteer or other) appear to influence your ability to act with integrity, objectivity, and independence towards the assigned task.
3. A potential conflict of interest arises when you become aware of outside interests or connections (business, personal, professional, volunteer or other) that if acted upon may influence your ability to act with integrity, objectivity, and independence in completing an assigned task.

Determination of conflict of interest:

In order to determine if any type of a conflict listed above is possible with your assigned task, ask yourself the following question.

“Would my peers or the general public consider my presentation (judgment) to be biased or would they trust my decision if they knew of this particular situation?”

Example 1) You are asked to give a talk on treatment of a specific disease and you sit on a pharmaceutical advisory board of a drug that is used to treat this disease.

Example 2) You are chairing a committee charged with developing guidelines for the use of product X. You serve as a consultant for the company that makes product X.

Disclosure:

You must take reasonable steps to disclose to CAG or physicians attending CAG accredited functions circumstances that occurred over the past 24 months that may place you in actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest. When you identify that conflict has arisen or has the potential to arise, disclosure is required. Furthermore, you must disclose what steps will be taken to protect objectivity and to deter potential criticisms to them or to CAG that might arise from actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest.

In regards to Example 1) above: you offer to speak on the pathophysiology rather than the treatment of disease, or you offer to have your talk about treatment vetted by the conference session organizer prior to the presentation at the meeting.

In regards to Example 2) above: as a guideline organizer, you arrange to have another committee member 1) chair the session on treatment and 2) have final approval of the guidelines on treatment.

If in doubt about actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest, ask your committee chair (session organizer) for an opinion.

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FINANCIAL INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORMS

Educational Event: _____

Date & Location of Event: _____

Name: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology must ensure balance, independence, objectivity, and scientific rigour in all business, educational and scientific activities. Accordingly, you are expected to disclose any potential, apparent or actual interests or connections (business, personal, professional, volunteer or other) appear to influence your ability to act with integrity, objectivity, and independence towards the assigned task. Furthermore you must disclose what steps will be taken to protect objectivity and to deter potential criticisms to them or to CAG that might arise from actual, apparent or potential conflict of interest. The intent of this initiative is to provide CAG and interested parties with information on the interests or relationships that could influence interpretations, recommendations, and conclusions.

1. Over the past 24 months, have you or your spouse received financial support from a commercial entity for any clinical or research activity connected with this task or do you have any other financial relationship with a commercial entity, which might be perceived as having a connection with this task?

NO, I do not have any relevant financial relationships with any commercial interests. I agree to immediately notify the CAG National Office if a significant financial interest develops at any time prior to or during my participation in the above educational event, presentation or task

YES If yes, please complete the table below listing:

- 1) The company(ies), what was received, for what role? For example: speaker's bureau, consultant, research support, company advisory board, employee, stockholder, other. Please include additional pages, as required.
- 2) Describe steps you would take to resolve any potential, apparent or actual conflict of interest. For example: excuse yourself from voting on decisions involving the commercial interest, or talk vetted by individual with no conflict of interest

Commercial Interest	Nature and resolution of relevant financial relationship		
	What was received?	For what role?	Planned resolution
<i>Example: Company X</i>	<i>Honorarium</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Talk vetted by session leader</i>

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2. Where this disclosure relates to a presentation, I agree:

- "that the content of my presentation will ____ or will not ____ include discussion of investigative use or off-label application of medicines, medical devices, or procedures."
- "to make a reasonable effort to identify for the participants, any discussion of investigative use or off-label application that may occur during the scientific or educational presentation so that they may be fully informed."

3. Where this disclosure relates to a presentation, I prepared all the slides used in this presentation?

YES

NO If no, list in the table below the slides you did not prepare, who prepared them and how you will disclose this on the slide. This information will be sent to the session organizer for evaluation and decision about display.

SLIDE TITLE	PREPARED BY	HOW DISCLOSED

Signature

Date

References: 1. Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). ACCME Standards for Commercial Support: Standards to Ensure the Independence of CME Activities. 2004 Available from: http://www.accme.org/index.cfm/fa/Policy.policy/Policy_id/9456ae6f-61b5-4e80-a330-7d85d5e68421.cfm 2. Wazana A. Physicians and the pharmaceutical industry. Is a gift ever just a gift? JAMA 2000;283:373-380. 3. Tenery Jr. RM. Interactions between physicians and the health care technology industry. JAMA 2000;283:391-393 4. Martin JB, Kasper DL. In whose best interest? Breaching the academic - industrial wall. NEJM 2000;343:1646-1649.