



Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy

In an effort to enhance transparency and educate CME participants, the CNS requires annual conflict of interest (COI) disclosures from its CME Planning Committees, faculty, presenters, and CNS staff. The form must be filled out prior to (i) providing education at a CNS CME activity; or (ii) participating in the planning of such activity.

CNS Guidelines: All research activities or data interpretation should be free of non-disclosed direct or indirect conflicts of interest. Circumstances create a "Conflict of Interest" when an individual has an opportunity to affect patient care, research activities, or data interpretation about products or services of a commercial interest with which he/she has a relevant financial relationship. A "relevant financial relationship" is defined by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) as a financial relationship in any amount occurring within the past 12 months that creates a conflict of interest. A financial relationship is one which the neurosurgeon benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights (i.e. patent rights), consulting fee, honoraria, ownership interest (i.e. stocks, stock options or other ownership interest excluding diversified mutual funds), gifts, or other financial benefits.

Relationships reported will be sub-classified as: consulting agreement, gifts, honoraria, intellectual fees, other, ownership interest, royalty, salary, physician owned distributorship, grants.

A conflict of interest may also occur when a neurosurgeon or an immediate family member (spouse, sibling, child, or parent) has, directly or indirectly, a financial interest or positional interest or other relationship with industry that could be perceived as influencing the neurosurgeon's obligation to act in an objective manner. A positional interest occurs when a neurosurgeon or immediate family member is an officer, director, trustee, editorial board member, consultant or employee of a company with which the neurosurgeon or immediate family member has or is considering a transaction or financial arrangement.

Example #1: Dr. A is a consultant for ZZZ Inc. providing 6 presentations per year demonstrating company products.

Example #2: Dr. B is a member of the medical board of directors for Med Corp. Her duties include participating in conference calls several times per year and attending the annual meeting of stockholders. Although she is not paid a salary by Med Corp, she is reimbursed for the cost of travel to the annual meeting and associated expenses.

Example #3: Dr. C has designed a shunt valve that has been sold to Shunt Inc. He has retained intellectual property rights to the valve through contractual agreement with Shunt Inc. Over the last 12 months Dr. C has received compensation from the intellectual property rights.

Example #4: Dr. D has licensed Ventures, LLC - a start up company solely owned by Dr. D with the purpose designing, developing and selling spine instrumentation. She has invested in Ventures, LLC and has been issued one patent but has not sold anything.

Commercial Interest	Subclassification	Positional Interest
e.g.#1 ZZZ Inc.	Consulting	None
e.g. #2 Med Corp.	Other	Officer
e.g. #3 Shunt Inc.	Intellectual Property Fee	None
e.g. #4 Ventures, LLC	Ownership Interest	Owner/CEO