



Canadian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Association canadienne de médecine physique et de réadaptation

Guidelines for Relationships with Sponsors

The Canadian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CAPM&R) welcomes the support of industry* and other corporations in achieving our goals of continuing professional development (CPD). In obtaining, as well as in providing, financial support for CPD activities, certain guidelines must be followed to ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the aims of those providing or participating in the educational activity and those of the company that is supporting the program, and that the nature of funding has no influence over the content of the educational session.

Professional development activities organized by the CAPM&R are not a forum to advertise products and must be free of commercial bias. Activities related to commercial products must present objective information about those products predicated upon scientific assessment of evidence generally accepted in the medical community, and must be distinguished from legitimate, independent CPD activities.

Identifying Products, Reporting on Research, and Discussing Unlabelled Uses of Products:

1. The use of generic names for drugs should be used in presentations, discussions, and enduring material.
2. In the course of educational discussions, speakers must disclose when a commercial product is not labeled for the use under discussion or when the product is still investigational.

Exhibits and Other Commercial Activities:

3. When commercial exhibits are part of the overall program, arrangements for these should not influence planning or interfere with the presentation of CPD activities.
4. Representatives of corporations providing commercial support may attend educational activities in accord with CAPM&R meeting regulations. These representatives should not actively participate in the discussion nor promote their products, which should be restricted to venues specifically convened for this purpose.

Submission and Presentation of Abstracts by Industry:

5. Industry may submit abstracts and present their work as any other participant according to the corresponding rules, regulations, and fees. The content of the presentation must be clearly reflected in the abstract and has to be of scientific or clinical interest. The industry affiliation must be clearly indicated in any and all presentations, written or otherwise.

* The term industry will be interpreted to include pharmaceutical and medical supply companies, other non-physician organizations or corporations and for-profit physician organizations or groups.

Acknowledgement of Support:

6. Acknowledgement of support will be included in the course program or on the enduring material without specific product designation.

Commercially Supported Social Events:

7. The value of social functions at CPD events is recognized, but they should neither compete with, nor take precedence over, the educational events. Judgment should be exercised to ensure that the scientific content is the primary focus of the meeting, and not the venue nor social activities. Both the CMA and Rx&D guidelines must be adhered to in this respect.

Policy on Disclosure of Faculty and Sponsor Relationships:

8. All presenters in CPD activities organized by the CAPM&R are required to disclose to a program audience any real or apparent conflict of interest that may have a direct bearing on the subject matter of the program. This pertains to any relationships with pharmaceutical corporations, biomedical device manufacturers, or other corporations. The intent of this policy is not to prevent a speaker with a potential conflict of interest from making a presentation. It is intended that any potential conflict of interest should be identified openly so that the listeners may form their own judgments about the presentation with the full disclosure of the facts. It remains for the audience to determine whether the speaker's outside interest may reflect a possible bias in either the exposition or the conclusions presented. This disclosure must occur in written materials accompanying the presentation, as well as verbally prior to the start of the presentation.
9. The situations where disclosure is required include: Grant/Research support, Industry consultancy, Speaker's Bureau for industry, major stockholder, or other financial or material support (including being paid an honorarium by a corporation for participation in any activity or being enrolled as a feature speaker for a corporation). This disclosure requirement extends to immediate family members of the speaker. Such disclosure will be given in writing by all speakers in a duality-of-interest disclosure form. This information will be verbally disclosed and will be printed in the course syllabus or on the enduring material.
10. These guidelines are consistent with and reflect the Code of Ethics and Physician-Industry Interactions Policy of the Canadian Medical Association, and the guidelines of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, and Section 4 of Rx&D, Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies Code of Conduct.