

Conflict of Interest Policy

The purpose of the policy approved by the Baystate Health, Inc is to provide clear guidance for evaluating potential conflicts of interest of everyone involved in the content of the educational activity. This policy applies to all CME activities to better ensure balance of faculty that will be used in CME activities.

Any person involved with a Baystate Health sponsored educational activity who is responsible for the design, content, or reporting of activities funded or proposed for funding with the exception of non-profit or government organizations and non-health care related companies must disclose any & all financial interest or legal ties that could directly or indirectly affect the activity.

Baystate Health uses a planning committee consisting of in-house program directors, and/or joint sponsors, and/or educational partners to provide input into the process for the CE activity. Once individual faculty members are suggested, they are sent a faculty letter inviting them to submit a conflict of interest form. In addition, all individuals involved in the planning process are required to return completed I forms.

Completed Disclosure forms are then submitted to the course program director. If needed, the program director will convene the Independent Review Committee (IRC) for resolution. The Independent Review Committee will examine situations of apparent and/or real conflicts of interest in order to assess circumstances under which relevant financial relationships may inappropriately conflict and could affect content of the educational activity. If a real conflict is found, one of the following mechanisms will be used:

- 1) Alter the financial relationship. This means that the individual will be asked relinquish their conflicted interests;
- 2) Alter the individual's control over CE content about the products or services of the commercial interests.

No activity can be accredited without documented independent review committee review and approval.