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## Professional Standards Regarding Physician Participation in Continuing Professional Development

This document is a **standard** approved by Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia.

A **standard** reflects the minimum professional and ethical behavior, conduct or practice expected by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. Physicians licensed with the College are required to be familiar with and comply with the College standards.

### Preamble

The primary purpose of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities is to address the educational needs of physicians in order to improve the health care provided to patients. The interests of industry always include a profit motive, which may influence the delivery of CPD.

This standard identifies the responsibilities of physicians involved in organizing, presenting or attending a continuing medical education event.

### Professional Standard(s)

1. Physicians must ensure the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of any information they present at a CPD event.
2. Physicians must disclose where any presentation materials they use have been developed by industry.
3. Physicians must not present information directly or indirectly for industry that intentionally promotes a product for the purpose of enhancing the sale of that product.
4. Any compensation, including gifts, received by a physician for services provided at or in support of a CPD event, must be reasonable and reflect time spent by the physician in providing services. Payments may also include reimbursements for reasonable expenses.

5. Any compensation, including gifts, received by a physician for membership or participation on advisory boards for industry must be reasonable and reflect time spent by the physician in providing the service. Payments may also include reimbursements for reasonable expenses.

6. Physicians must not accept payment, gifts or reimbursement for reasonable expenses from industry solely for attending CPD events.

## Definitions

**Industry** refers to the full range of commercial enterprises associated with health care including but not limited to, commercial providers of goods and services to physicians; the pharmaceutical industry; the biotechnical industry; the medical device industry; and similar commercial enterprises related to clinical practice, education and research.

## Resources

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia:

- [Professional Standard Conflict of Interest](#)
- [Professional Standard and Guidelines Regarding Advertising and Public Communications by Physicians](#)

Canadian Medical Association:

- [Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry](#)
- [Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics](#)

Canadian Medical Protective Association:

- [Commercial Interests and How Physicians Can Avoid the Pitfalls, 2015](#)
- [Physicians and Research: Understanding the legal, ethical and professional obligations, 2014](#)

## Acknowledgements

In developing this standard, the College incorporated information provided in the policies of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

## Document History

Approved by the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia: **May 25, 2018**

Approximate date of next review: **2021**

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