

CME Policy and Procedures

In accordance with the ACCME accreditation requirements, for all of its CME activities, AAHKS makes sure that:

Content is Valid

AAHKS is responsible for ensuring that its education is fair and balanced and that any clinical content presented supports safe, effective patient care.

All recommendations for patient care in accredited continuing education must be based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning, while giving a fair and balanced view of diagnostic and therapeutic options.

All AAHKS CME activities are designed to provide updates on the scientific and clinical status of hip and knee surgery, based on the needs that underlie professional practice gaps and allow for an exchange between clinicians and other scientists actively practicing in the field of joint arthroplasty.

These educational interventions provide contemporary information and training to improve the proficiencies of the learners, and ultimately, help improve patient care and outcomes. The full range of current and emerging therapeutic, diagnostic, and surgical modalities are integrated into each educational activity, covering all options currently available and giving a balanced view of the evidence that is accepted within the profession.

All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in accredited education in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

By accepting the invitation to engage in AAHKS CME activity, all presenters (and otherwise contributors to the CME content) commit to the following:

- present a scientifically sound and balanced educational content and avoid introducing any commercial bias
- disclose all financial relationships to learners verbally and in print
- promote quality or improvements in healthcare and not promote a specific proprietary business interest of an ineligible company(s)
- present content, including any presentation of therapeutic options, that is well balanced, evidence based and unbiased
- not accept any honoraria, additional payments, or reimbursements beyond that which has been agreed upon directly with AAHKS
- allow AAHKS to review presentations and/or content prior to the activity (including references)
- when providing recommendations involving clinical medicine, base them on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine and adequately justifies the indications and contraindications in the care of patients. All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in

CME in support of justification of a patient care recommendation has to conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

- when discussing any product use that is off label, to disclose that the use or indication in question is not currently approved by the FDA for labeling and advertising.

Although accredited continuing education is an appropriate place to discuss, debate, and explore new and evolving topics, these areas need to be clearly identified as such within the program and individual presentations. It is the responsibility of accredited providers to facilitate engagement with these topics without advocating for, or promoting, practices that are not, or not yet adequately based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning.

By accepting the invitation to engage in AAHKS CME activity, all presenters (and otherwise contributors to the CME Content) agree to identify new and evolving topics not supported by evidence as such, where and when appropriate.

When discussing any product use that is off label, presenters (and otherwise contributors to the CME content) agree to disclose that the use or indication in question is not currently approved by the FDA for labeling and advertising.

Identify, Mitigate, and Disclose Relevant Financial Relationships

Many healthcare professionals have financial relationships with ineligible companies. These relationships must not be allowed to influence accredited continuing education. AAHKS is responsible for identifying relevant financial relationships between individuals in control of educational content and ineligible companies and managing these to ensure they do not introduce commercial bias into the education. Financial relationships of any dollar amount are defined as relevant if the educational content is related to the business lines or products of the ineligible company. AAHKS takes the following steps when developing accredited continuing education.

Collect information: Collect information from all planners, faculty, and others in control of educational content about all their financial relationships with ineligible companies within the prior **24 months**. There is no minimum financial threshold; individuals must disclose all financial relationships, regardless of the amount, with ineligible companies. Individuals must disclose regardless of their view of the relevance of the relationship to the education.

Disclosure information must include:

- a. The name of the ineligible company with which the person has a financial relationship.**
- b. The nature of the financial relationship. Examples of financial relationships include employee, researcher, consultant, advisor, speaker, independent contractor (including contracted research), royalties or patent beneficiary, executive role, and ownership interest. Individual stocks and stock options should be disclosed; diversified mutual funds do not need to be disclosed. Research funding from ineligible companies should be disclosed by the principal or named investigator even if that individual's institution receives the research grant and manages the funds.**

AAHKS collects the stated disclosure information via AAOS Disclosure Website. The website serves as the database for presenter and otherwise contributor to CME content disclosure information. **AAHKS instructs their presenters and contributors to update the disclosure information regularly and as needed (when new relationships occur).** AAHKS is able to retrieve full disclosure information reports from the website for all of its planners and contributors, as needed.

Exclude owners or employees of ineligible companies: Review the information about financial relationships to identify individuals who are owners or employees of ineligible companies. These individuals must be excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in accredited education. Exception - when they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used (strictly demonstration).

AAHKS does not allow owners or employees of ineligible companies to participate as planners, presenters, or otherwise contributors to CME content.

Disclose all relevant financial relationships to learners: Disclosure to learners must include each of the following:

- a. The names of the individuals with relevant financial relationships.**
- b. The names of the ineligible companies with which they have relationships.**
- c. The nature of the relationships.**
- d. A statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.**

Disclosure to learners must not include ineligible companies' corporate or product logos, trade names, or product group messages.

Disclose absence of relevant financial relationships. Inform learners about planners, faculty, and others in control of content (either individually or as a group) with no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.

AAHKS makes a list of disclosures available to learners on AAHKS website. The disclosure list includes a statement that relevant financial relationships have been mitigated.

AAHKS asks every presenter/faculty to include a slide at the beginning of their presentation listing their disclosure information as described above.

If you are unable to meet the aforementioned policy, please contact Sigita Wolfe, swolfe@aahks.org, at your earliest convenience and prior to the activity start.