

National Standard for Support of Accredited CPD Activities (the National Standard)  
FAQs for Implementation

On Implementation

1. When did the National Standard come into effect?

**Answer:**

January 1, 2018.

2. Does the National Standard apply to accredited regular scheduled series, rounds, journal clubs, and small groups?

**Answer:**

Yes. Rounds, journal clubs and small groups must adhere to the National Standard.

3. If a CPD provider hosts an accredited CPD activity in the province of Quebec, are both the Conseil québécois de développement professionnel continu des médecins (CQDPCM) Code of Ethics and National Standard applicable?

**Answer:**

Activities accredited for Royal College MOC or Mainpro+ credits must always comply with the National Standard. CFPC Mainpro+® certified activities held in the province of Quebec must also adhere to the CQDPCM's Code of Ethics. All CPD activities developed by CMQ accredited organizations must also adhere to the Code of Ethics regardless.

Wherever discrepancies exist between the National Standard and the CQDPCM's Code of Ethics, the higher of the two standards shall prevail.

4. Does the implementation of the National Standard eliminate or replace the Canadian Medical

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Physicians in Interactions with Industry.

Wherever discrepancies exist between the National Standard and CMA's "Guidelines for Physicians in Interaction with Industry", the higher of the two standards shall prevail.

5. For a CPD activity to award both MOC and Mainpro+ credits, does it need to be accredited by both the Royal College and the CFPC?

**Answer:**

Yes. To award both Royal College MOC and CFPC Mainpro+ credits, CPD providers must pursue CPD accreditation by both systems.



**On Independence**

**10. Can CPD provider organizations fund their own CPD activity and be represented on the scientific planning committee (SPC)?**

**Answer:**

Yes, they can. Self-funding by eligible CPD provider organizations, physician organizations or SPCs is not sponsorship as defined by the National Standard. A sponsor is defined as an individual, group, corporation or organization (for -profit and not for -profit) who provides financial or in -kind support, including goods or services in support of accredited educational activities, learning resources, or tools to an eligible CPD provider organization.

**11. Can a representative of a sponsor (either a commercial or non-commercial interest) or any organization hired by a sponsor attend SPC meetings, but not participate in decisions related to CPD program elements?**

Sub-elements 1.2 and 1.3 indicate that Representatives of a sponsor or any organization hired by a sponsor cannot participate in decisions related to CPD program elements:

- Identification of the educational needs of the intended target audience;
- Development of learning objectives;
- Selection of educational methods;
- Selection of speakers, moderators, facilitators and authors;
- Development and delivery of content; and
- Evaluation of outcomes.

**Answer:**

For CPD activities accredited for Royal College MOC Section 1 or 3 credits, representatives of a sponsor or any organization hired by a sponsor may attend SPC meetings but are not permitted to participate in decisions related to CPD program elements.

For CPD activities certified for CFPC Mainpro+ credits, representatives of a commercial interest, as defined by the National Standard, or any organization hired by a commercial interest cannot attend SPC meetings. Sponsors who are not commercial interests may attend SPC meetings but are not permitted to participate in decisions related to CPD program elements.

**12. What is meant by "hired"?**

**Answer:**

"Hired" refers to any organization (such as a medical communication company), working for, in conjunction with or accountable to a sponsor.

**13. Can a sponsor provide needs assessment details/materials?**

**Answer:**

Yes. The SPC may consider data or advice from all sources at its meetings. However, the SPC must ensure that it has exclusive control over the 6 -0 00 CS 0 -0 0 9.63.6 (er)3.4 -0 0 9.96 276.48 177.12 Tm ( )Tj ET



**16. Can a sponsor directly pay expenses associated with a CPD activity, without first providing financial or in-kind support to the CPD provider organization?**

**Answer:**

Ideally, a sponsor must provide all sponsorship directly to the CPD provider organization, physician organization or SPC in accordance with sub-element 4.1: “the CPD provider organization or SPC is responsible to receive any financial or in-kind support for the development of an accredited CPD activity.” This also applies to accredited rounds, journal clubs, and small groups (“regularly scheduled series”) as well as single-sponsored CPD activities.

The CPD provider organization, physician organization or SPC may choose to enter into a written agreement with a third party for the receipt of any financial or in-kind support from a sponsor.

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if logistical payments have been delegated to a sponsor this arrangement including the budget must be included in the written agreements;  
how sponsorship will be recognized;  
how sponsorship will be disclosed to participants.

**19. Can a CPD provider organization, physician organization or SPC hire a third party to draft and initiate these agreements?**

**Answer:**

Yes, a CPD provider organization, physician organization or SPC can hire a third party to draft and initiate a written agreement.

**20. Are there guidelines on the maximum dollar amount for meals provided at accredited CPD activities?**

**Answer:**

The Royal College has not set guidelines for the maximum dollar amount for meals provided at accredited CPD activities.

The CFPC Chapters have established limits on the costs of meals associated with Mainpro+ certified activities. The maximum values for breakfast, lunch, and dinner in each province are published in the Mainpro+ Certification Standards.

The CMA Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry requires any meals provided to physicians during industry-sponsored CPD activities be modest.

**21. Are there guidelines on the maximum dollar amount for honoraria that can be paid to speakers?**

**Answer:**

No, the National Standard has not defined the maximum amount; however, the CMA Guidelines for Physicians in Interactions with Industry requires that any honoraria paid to faculty be reasonable<sup>4</sup>.

**On Managing Commercial Promotion**

**22. Regarding sub-element 6.5, what is considered to be an “incentive”?**

6.5 Any incentive provided to participants associated with an accredited CPD activity must be approved by the CPD provider organization.

**Answer:**

Sub-element 6.5 specifically relates to exhibits at an accredited CPD activity. An example of an “incentive” is an “exhibitor passport” provided to participants to record a “stamp” or signature for each exhibit booth that they visit. The completed passport is entered into a draw for a prize. In this example, the incentive is the ability to win a prize by participants visit exhibit booths. Sub-element 6.5 requires incentive provided to participants associated with an accredited CPD activity be approved by the CPD provider organization.



