



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Conflict of Interest/Disclosure Policies and Procedures for ABPN Faculty Innovation in Education and Research Award Applicants

Background

In order to maintain the confidence of the public and the medical profession in the integrity of the Board, it is important for those involved with it to avoid certain activities that could provide the opportunity for an actual conflict of interest or the appearance thereof.

A conflict of interest is defined as an instance wherein a competing outside activity or holding could influence or appear to influence the Board's activities in the area of policy development, evaluation of training programs, or examination development. Examples of such competing outside interests are compensated direct employment, paid advisory or consultant positions, significant personal investments, or affiliations as an officer and/or director in a pharmaceutical or medical supply company.

As an alternative to regulating investment or employment, the Board has chosen to manage matters related to the appearance of a conflict of interest by encouraging disclosure of significant financial interests or relationships and abstention from participation in decision-making related to a matter that could give rise to a conflict of interest (due to a material financial interest or relationship).

In addition, the Board requires that award recipients must be certified by the ABPN and fully maintain certification.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board that its awards recipients disclose any potential conflict of interest and attest to meeting eligibility requirements for board certification and licensure.

While the ABPN does not attempt to describe all possible conflicts of interest that could develop, the following are examples the ABPN has identified as potential or apparent conflicts of interest:

- A. Significant financial holdings in any pharmaceutical or medical supply company. A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family¹:
 - 1. an ownership or investment interest in any pharmaceutical or medical supply company, or
 - 2. a compensation arrangement with any pharmaceutical or medical supply company, or
 - 3. a potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any pharmaceutical or medical supply company.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are substantial in nature.

¹ The "family" of any individual shall include only his or her spouse; his or her siblings and their spouses; his or her ancestors; and his or her descendants and their spouses.

- B. An affiliation in the capacity of trustee, officer, director, or other major capacity with any pharmaceutical or medical supply company.
- C. Any other affiliations that would present a potential or apparent conflict of interest or commitment.

Procedures

ABPN award recipients shall annually sign a statement that affirms such person:

- A. has received a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy,
- B. has read and understands the policy,
- C. has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- D. understands that the ABPN is a non-profit organization and that in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Disclosure forms for ABPN faculty fellows will be submitted annually. Any forms reporting a potential conflict will be submitted to the Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest for adjudication.

Any concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest resulting from the submitted reports will be evaluated and acted upon by the Board. The information on all submitted forms will be kept confidential.

Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy

If the Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest has reasonable cause to believe that an ABPN award recipient has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform that individual of the basis for such belief and afford the individual an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If, after hearing the response of the individual and making such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances, the Standing Committee on Conflicts of Interest determines that the individual has in fact intentionally failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Approved 05/13