

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the first step in planning a CME activity?

Contact Dr. Chanise Reese-Queen Program Director, CME, creese-queen@som.umaryland.edu to schedule an initial planning.

What is a Regularly Schedule Series (RSS)?

Regularly scheduled series is a live activity planned as a series with multiple, ongoing sessions, e.g., offered weekly, monthly, or quarterly. A regularly scheduled series is primarily planned by and presented to the accredited organization's professional staff and generally targets the same audience over the whole series. Examples include grand rounds, tumor boards, and morbidity and mortality conferences.

What is a Commercial Interest?

A *commercial interest* is any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients.

The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests - unless the provider of clinical service is owned, or controlled by, an ACCME-defined commercial interest. [Commercial Interest video](#)

What is Conflict of Interest?

Conflict of interest occurs when a person has the opportunity to affect the content of continuing medical education, and at the same time that person has a financial relationship with an ACCME-defined commercial interest that is related to the content of the continuing medical education. [Conflict of Interest video](#)

What is a Financial Relationship?

Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria for promotional speakers' bureau, ownership interest (e.g., stocks, stock options or other ownership interest, excluding diversified mutual funds), or other financial benefit. Financial benefits are usually associated with roles such as employment, management position, independent contractor (including contracted research), consulting, speaking and teaching, membership on advisory committees or review panels, board membership, and other activities from which remuneration is received, or expected. ACCME considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.

Can employees of commercial interest participate in the planning a CME activity?

Per ACCME, the use of employees of ACCME-defined commercial interests as faculty and planners or in other roles where they are in a position to control the content of accredited CME is prohibited, except in the specific situations specified [here](#).

What is Commercial Support?

Commercial Support is financial, or in-kind, contributions given by a commercial interest which is used to pay all or part of the costs of a CME activity.