

Continuing medical education and pharmaceutical industry involvement: An evaluation of policies adopted by 60 Canadian professional medical associations

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Results

- Assessed 236 policies (range, 0-32 policies per PMA)

Cumulative scores	No. of PMAs that achieved cumulative score
0%	27
14.3%% to 49.2%	34
Above 49.2%	0

- Coalition's joint policy = only policy to receive a score of 3/3 for any item (satellite symposia)
- None of the items were addressed by all PMAs
- Awards item was not addressed by any PMA policies
- Highest mean scores:
 - Commercial involvement in planning CME (1.1/3)
 - Presence of a review process for topics of CME (1.1/3)
 - Content review for balanced information (1.0/3)
 - Responsibility of distribution of funds (1.0/3)
- Lowest mean scores:
 - Industry personnel, representatives, and employees (0.1/3)
 - Distribution of industry-funded education materials at CME activities (0.1/3)
 - Distinction between marketing and educational materials (0.1/3)

Results

- **Q1:** 23/60 (38%) PMAs publicly disclosed receiving general funding from industry
- **Q2:** 49/60 (82%) PMAs publicly disclosed receiving funds specifically for CME from industry
- **EA:** 34/61 (55%) identified party responsible
- **EB:** 18/60 (30%) identified sanctions for noncompliance
- **EC:** 0/60 (0%) stated that results from investigations into noncompliance would be made accessible on association's website

Conclusion

- Generally weak policies on industry involvement in CME hosted by PMAs in Canada indicates that there are opportunities for industry involvement at all levels of CME planning, logistics, and programming
- Alternative mechanisms for funding CME activities
 - Modest increase in membership dues
 - Accepting anonymous funding
- Canadian PMAs should take the leadership position and set high standards re: industry funding of CME for their physician members

Pellegrino & Relman. *J Am Med Assoc.* 1999; **Marlow.** *Can Med Assoc J.* 2004; **Task Force on the CFPC's Relationship with the Health Care/Pharmaceutical Industry (HPI).** *The CFPC's Relationship with the Health Care/pharmaceutical Industry.*; 2013.

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Thank you



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