Test your Knowledge of Standards for Conflict of Interest,
Commercial Support and/or Bias

1. A conflict of interest or bias can occur when a faculty member has a financial
relationship with a company that has an interest in the content of an educational activity.
Which one of the following “relationships” does not require a disclosure?

A. The faculty member is a consultant with that company
B. The faculty member owns stock, mutual funds or stock options in the company
C. The faculty member has a family member who is employed by the company
D. The faculty member has purchased equipment from the company
E. The faculty member is a member of an advisory committee or Board member of
the company

D. [ARRS disclosure policy] The relationships that require disclosure include those from which
the faculty member or a family member has received or expects financial remuneration or

2. All faculty members, authors, planning committee members or persons in control of
content of an educational activity must disclose any relevant commercial relationships that
have occurred in the last:

A. 6 months
B. 12 months
C. 2 years
D. 5 years

12 months [Standard 2]
Anyone who is involved in an educational activity must complete a disclosure form that
indicates any relevant financial support or relationship, that may create a conflict of
interest, within the past 12 months of that activity

3. Upon disclosure, faculty must provide the following information:

A. name of the commercial interest
B. nature of the relationship the person has with the commercial interest
C. any in-kind support from the commercial interest
D. trade name of any products or equipment
E. A and B
F. A, B and C
G. All of above

F [Standard 6]
A disclosure statement must include the name of the commercial interest and the nature of
the relationship (e.g. research) including any in-kind support. The trade name or
promotion of or messages related to the product/equipment or the amount are not required.

4. Once faculty persons disclose their commercial interest, the content can include discussion on a particular product without evidence-based information and/or discussion on other similar products.
   True
   False

*False. Faculty members are required to complete and publish a disclosure statement for each and every CME educational activity. The content of the talk must be independent of and not influenced by any commercial interest or preference. Presentations should always be to meet the needs and interest of the learner, and include evidence-based information, and ways to improve performance and healthcare for patients. The goal should never be to promote a product or equipment.*

5. Faculty presentations must include a disclosure slide:
   A. At any time or anywhere in the presentation as long as it is included and displayed to the attendee
   B. In the beginning and before the content is presented
   C. At the end of the presentation

   B. The disclosure must be presented at the beginning prior to presenting the content.

6. When commercial products are presented in an educational activity, what is required?
   A. Use generic names as much as possible.
   B. Present names from several companies.
   C. A balanced view of options is expected.
   D. All of the above

   D [Standard 5]
   *It is preferable to use generic names whenever possible. If the presentation uses trade names, a balanced view must be presented and trade names from several companies must be included.*

7. An individual who does not supply disclosure information can be disqualified from participating in an ARRS educational activity in any way. T [Standard 1]

   *All ARRS faculty and authors must complete a disclosure form PRIOR to speaking or publishing educational materials. If this is not done, the individual will not be allowed to present at an ARRS event.*

8. ARRS checks for conflict of interest and bias in which of the following ways:
   A. ARRS staff reviews slides and program materials before they are published
   B. Attendees complete an evaluation asking for detection of any bias in the content of the presentation
C. Peer-review at annual meeting by Education Evaluation Subcommittee
D. When a conflict or bias is detected by an attendee, ARRS follows-up with those
attendees to determine the nature/content of the bias.
E. All of the above

ARRS does all of the above and has a disclosure policy and bias policy.

9. It is appropriate for faculty to use slides or a product/equipment from a commercial
interest if the speaker is presenting information on the use of that product/equipment.
True
False

This is not appropriate, particularly since the speaker must present a balanced view and
include other similar products/equipment

10. Product promotion or advertisement can not be seen or occur in all but one of the
following:
   A. Printed pages within the CME content of an article, book or other educational
      material
   B. On a computer screen where CME content is displayed
   C. In a physical space where CME content is delivered
   D. Materials about non-CME activities that are not related to the content of the CME
      activity

   D [Standard 4]

Printed promotional or advertisement information may NOT be placed within or between
the pages of any ARRS educational materials. They may be located before the first page
(not on it) or following the last page. Computer-based similar information can not be
visible on the same screen as educational content or incorporated into it in any way.
Likewise, audio and video recording materials that promote products/equipment or are
commercials can not be integral to the educational activity. Such promotions or even
mention of products are not allowed and can not be displayed in the same space where a
CME activity is conducted. This applies to all supplemental materials such as hand-outs.

However, product/equipment information or messages may be placed on materials that do
not have CME content.

References:
• To read about all of the standards cited above, see ACCME, ACCME Standards for
  Commercial Support 2007:
http://www.accme.org/dir_docs/doc_upload/68b2902a-fb73-44d1-8725-80a1504e520c_uploaddocument.pdf
• Bihlmeyer S, Schriber, C, Farrand, S. The impact of commercial support on continuing
  medical education: the physician’s perspective. CE Measure 2008; 3:43-49
• ARRS disclosure policy
• ARRS bias policy

The American Roentgen Ray Society (ARRS) is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to sponsor continuing medical education activities for physicians.

The ARRS Disclosure Policy: Since its inception in 1900, the ARRS has maintained a tradition of scientific integrity and objectivity in its educational activities. In order to preserve this integrity and objectivity, all individuals participating as planners, presenters, moderators and evaluators in an ARRS educational activity or an activity jointly sponsored by the ARRS must appropriately disclose any financial relationship with a commercial organization that may have an interest in the content of the educational activity.

ACCME Definition of a Financial Relationship: Financial relationships are those relationships in which the individual benefits by receiving a salary, royalty, intellectual property rights, consulting fee, honoraria, 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 benefit is received or expected. The ACCME considers relationships of the person involved in the CME activity to include financial relationships of a spouse or partner.