



ACCME Standards Changes and How They Will Affect the AOA's Joint Providership Program

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME®) has announced their new [Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education](#). The Standards are designed to ensure that accredited continuing education provides healthcare professionals with accurate, balanced, evidence-based information that supports safe and effective patient care. They have given all organizations until January 1, 2022 to implement new changes associated with their new Standards.

At the AOA, we pride ourselves on being at the cutting-edge of all new changes and plan to incorporate the new Standards into our Joint Providership program as soon as possible. We understand there is a learning curve for accredited providers, joint providers, and faculty that will come with these changes. That being said, the Physician Education and CME department has developed this high-level guide that outlines all the changes in the Joint Providership program to meet these new requirements.

- Disclosure and COI Forms
 - Commercial Interests are now deemed “Ineligible companies” and there are further definitions of such Ineligible Companies.
 - Conflict of Interest Disclosures will now ask for an individual to disclose **all** potential COIs from the past 24 months (previously we only asked for relevant disclosures within 12 months). It is up to AOA, as the accredited provider, and the Joint Provider to identify which COIs are relevant and should be disclosed to learners.
 - ACCME no longer requires the disclosure of a spouse or partner, however, since this is still an AOA requirement and we understand that many of our activities are dually accredited with AOA and *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*, we have kept this in our disclosure form template so that one form can suffice for both types of credit.
 - Our [disclosure form](#) has been updated to incorporate those changes and should be used going forward.
 - The term “mitigate” replaces “resolve”, in guidance related to relevant financial relationships.
 - The front matter/syllabus/program/etc. must include a statement that all relevant financial relationships have been mitigated. The [front matter template](#) has been updated to incorporate these changes and should be used as guidance going forward.
- Ancillary Marketing and non-accredited activities
 - The ACCME has defined how much time (30-minute interval) must separate accredited activities and marketing or non-accredited activities, if they are held in the same educational space.
- Commercial Support

- Additional clarification that accredited providers can sign onto an existing commercial support agreement between a commercial supporter and a joint provider.

The ACCME has also developed resources that can help provide background guidance:

https://accme.org/standards-resources?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=New%20Standards%20Resources%20Webpage&utm_campaign=Standards%20Release.

Furthermore, the AOA Joint Providership Guidebook has been updated to include all new additions that abide by the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. If you have any specific questions regarding any of the new standards or how to implement them, please contact jointprovidership@osteopathic.org.