

# Management of Conflicts of Interest in the Development of Clinical Practice Guidelines by the American Society of Hematology

As described in Policy 8 of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Conflict of Interest Policy (2014), special policies apply to the development of ASH clinical practice guidelines. This document describes those policies.

influenced by an A financial interest directly by the individual.

A financial interest that is owned or received via an intermediary, e.g., research funding, educational grants, etc. u-3.3 (n). 2-4(c)-4.9 (h)C5 (e).3 29-8.5(a2-4(c)-4.9a-5 i)-3.3 (d)iv.3 (h).29-8

## Sponsorship and Funding

ASH does not accept direct support from **for-profit healthcare companies** for the development of ASH

Governmental, nonprofit, or individual philanthropic funding of ASH guideline development and

Panelists must maintain disclosures throughout the guideline development process. ASH will prompt for updates.

Disclosures are published with the guidelines.

### New Conflict Avoidance

From time of appointment to publication of the guidelines, individuals on the guideline panel, regardless of role, must:

- Not accept direct payments or transfers of value >\$5,000/year in aggregate from **for-profit healthcare companies**.
- Not accept paid speaking (“speaker bureaus”) positions from **for-profit healthcare companies**.
- Disclose any new **direct and indirect financial interests** with **for-profit healthcare companies** and any new relationships with other entities that reasonably could be expected to be relevant to the guidelines.
- Check disclosures made to ASH against publicly available information such as Open Payments and explain discrepancies.
- Avoid simultaneous participation in guideline efforts by other organizations on the same topic.
- Attest compliance with the above when requested by ASH.

### Management of Allowed Conflicts

- All allowed conflicts are managed through disclosure and group discussion.
- A senior member of the guideline panel who is not a chair will serve as the COI Compliance Officer. Throughout the development process, the COI Compliance Officer will review disclosures, facilitate discussions by the panel about conflicts before each call or meeting, and facilitate recusal or other mitigation methods when required as described below.
- On a recommendation by recommendation basis, certain conflicts also may be managed through recusal:
  - Current direct payments or transfers of value >\$5,000/year in aggregate from **for-profit companies** that could be directly affected by that recommendation, i.e., in rare cases where the individual is not dismissed for same
  - Leadership role (e.g., principal investigator) for a research study relevant to the guideline question
  - Other important conflicts at the discretion of panelists, chairs, or the Guideline Oversight Subcommittee
- Final decisions about recusal (e.g., in the case of disagreements) are made by the ASH Guideline Oversight Subcommittee.
- Recused individuals may participate in question formulation, review and discussion of evidence, and manuscript writing but are recused from making judgments about evidence or decisions about the direction or strength of recommendations.
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## Deviations from Policy

- Individuals who do not substantially abide by the above policy or procedures will be dismissed from the guideline panel. On guideline publication, the participation of dismissed individuals will be described or acknowledged, but dismissed individuals will not be listed as authors.
- Individuals who do not substantially abide by the above policy or procedures will not be invited to participate in future ASH guideline efforts.
- On a case-by-case basis, minor deviations from policy may be managed through disclosure or other means, including by describing the deviation within the guideline publication. The Guideline Oversight Subcommittee will judge if a deviation is “minor.” In general, a “minor deviation” must meet all of the following conditions: (1) occur unintentionally, (2) be unlikely to have influenced any recommendations, and (3) be unlikely to be perceived by guideline users as important.
- Dismissed individuals will generally not be replaced with new panelists. Instead, guideline panels will be initially composed with the expectation that during the development process, some individuals will drop out or be dismissed. For example, usually at least 21 people will be initially appointed to the panel, with the goal of retaining at least 17.
- Decisions about how to manage deviations from policy, including through dismissal, will be by the ASH Guideline Oversight Subcommittee.

## Guideline Publication

- A section of the published guidelines, “Guideline Funding and Managem(a) ( p)2.3 (an)2.3 (e)-3 (l(an)2.3 ( (i)f2. ( t c A a