



Policy & Guidelines for Interactions with Industry

Purpose

To provide guidance for Nurse Practitioners in Interaction with Industry

General Principles

- The primary objective in the interactions of Nurse Practitioners and industry should be the advancement of the health of all British Columbians.
- Relationships with Nurse Practitioners and industry are guided by the CRNBC Code of Ethics and by this BCNPA policy.
- The BCNPA Executive will not be party to Executive members being the beneficiary of non-educational largesse from the industry
- The Nurse Practitioners primary obligation is to the patient.
- Nurse Practitioners must avoid any self-interest in their prescribing and referral practices.
- The Nurse Practitioner should always maintain professional autonomy and independence when in relations with industry. All Nurse Practitioners should remain committed to scientific methodology.
- Nurse Practitioners with ties to industry have an obligation to disclose ties in any situation where potential influence to their judgment could be reasonably perceived as having factor.
- BCNPA will not facilitate access of drug representatives to membership 'contact information'.

Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- This section of the Guidelines addresses educational events for practicing NPs and student NPs such as CMEs, workshops and journal clubs.
- The goal of improving the health care of patients is the driving force to which will guide the purpose for CME/CPD activities. CME/CPD content should address the educational needs of NPs and NP students.
- NP organizers will make the ultimate decisions on the organization, identification of content, selection of speakers and choice of CME/CPD activities for NPs and NP students.

- NP CME/CPD organizers and individual NP presenters are responsible for ensuring the scientific validity, objectivity and completeness of CME/CPD activities.
- NP CME/CPD organizers and individual presenters must disclose to the participants at their CME/CPD events any financial affiliations with manufacturers of products mentioned at the event or with manufacturers of competing products.
- All funds from a commercial source should be in the form of an unrestricted educational grant payable to the organizations (BCNPA) sponsoring the CME/CPD activity.
- Industry representatives should not be members of CME content planning committees such as the BCNPA Education Committee or the BCNPA Conference Planning Committee. The Industry representatives may be involved in providing logistical support.
- Generic names should be used in the course of CME/CPD activities.
- If unapproved or 'off label' use of a product or service are discussed in a CME/CPD activity, presenters must inform the audience of this fact.
- Industry representatives may be invited, by BCNPA, to submit educational materials for BCNPA sponsored events, publications, and the website. If deemed appropriate, the materials may be used.

Electronic Continuing Professional Development (eCPD)

- The general principles outlined in the above section of CPD events apply to eCPD modules. The term 'eCPD' refers to internet-based CPD content or modules.
- There should not be any direct link to an industry or product website on the BCNPA website/webpage containing eCPD material.

Gifts

- Nurse Practitioners should be aware that acceptance of any gifts of any value has been shown to have the potential to influence prescribing practitioners clinical decision-making. Practicing NPs should not accept personal gifts of any significant monetary or other value from industry.

Other Considerations

- These guidelines apply to relationships between NPs and all commercial organizations. (i.e.: drug companies, manufacturers of medical devices, nutritional products, health care products and service suppliers).
- Practicing NPs may accept patient teaching materials/aids appropriate to their area of practice. These materials/aids should not refer to specific therapeutic agents, services or other products (not including a modest logo of the donor company).

Adapted from Canadian Medical Association: CMA Policy: "[Guidelines for physicians n interactions with industry](#)"; 2007.