

Institute of Medicine

Committee on Conflict of Interest in Medical Research, Education, and Practice

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American Academy of Neurology

- 22,000+ U.S. and international members
- Internationally-recognized medical publications
 - *Neurology* (medical journal)
 - *Continuum* (CME journal)
 - Clinical practice guidelines

Current Personal Experience

- AAN General Counsel
- Legal advisor to
 - Ethics, Law and Humanities Committee
 - Committees and subcommittees developing guidelines
 - Committees delivering CME to members
 - Editor-in-Chief of *Neurology*
- Responsible for implementation of AAN Policy on Conflicts of Interest

Academy Guidelines

- Guideline development is key AAN activity
- Board of Directors governs process and approves each guideline
- AAN collaborates with other US and international organizations to jointly develop guidelines
- 100 have been developed; 70 are current
- 40 are under development

Development of Guidelines

- Technical work by experts in subcommittees
- Reviewed by Practice Committee, appropriate other committees and sections
- Approved by AAN Board of Directors
- Further peer review in publishing process
- Published in *Neurology*

Integrity of Guideline Process - I

- “Principles Governing AAN Relationships with External Sources of Support”
 - Approved by AAN Board in June 2004
 - Considers clinical practice guideline development a “core governance activity”
 - “The AAN Board of Directors is responsible for assuring the separation of core governance activities from external funding sources.”

Integrity of Guideline Process - IIP

- AAN Policy on Conflicts of Interest
 - Adopted in 1997, updated March 2008
 - Requires disclosures of COI by
 - Guideline authors
 - Reviewing committees, subcommittees
 - Board of Directors
 - Editors of *Neurology*
- Policy includes detailed disclosure form

Integrity of Guideline Process - III

- Since 2000, guidelines have been developed in strict compliance with manual (evidence based)
- Multiple levels of independent peer review
 - Committees
 - Sections
 - Board of Directors
 - Journal reviewers and editors
 - Journal and guideline readers

In conclusion....

- External funding of guidelines not authorized
- Well-defined disclosure process
- Extensive internal and external peer review
- Board of Directors and legal oversight
- Careful to protect integrity of the process