

Purpose

To establish criteria, policy, and process for the validation of the clinical content of CME activities in accordance with ACCME policy and standards.

Policy

NYU School of Medicine (NYU SOM) must review the planned content of a CME activity certified by NYU SOM and demonstrate in documentation that any recommendations, treatments, and manners of practicing medicine promulgated in CME activities are evidence-based and efficacious in the care of patients. The following “values”, taken from the ACCME Value Statements, should be used in planning CME activities and will be communicated to activity planners, course directors, and speakers:

- All the recommendations involving clinical medicine in a CME activity must be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients.
- All scientific research referred to, reported or used in CME in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.
- Activities are not eligible for accreditation if they: (1) promote recommendations, treatment, or manners of practicing medicine that are not within the definition of CME or are (2) known to have risks or dangers that outweigh the benefits or are (3) known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients.
- **Definition of CME.** NYU SOM adopts the following Definition of CME as promulgated by the ACCME: “Continuing Medical Education (CME) consists of educational activities which serve to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills and professional performance and relationships that a physician uses to provide services for patients, the public, or the profession. The content of CME is that body of knowledge and skills generally recognized and accepted by the profession as within the basic medical sciences, the discipline of clinical medicine, and the provision of health care to the public.”
- **Faculty Letter.** Faculty will be advised of content requirements in their faculty letters.
- **Independent Reviewer.** For directly-provided activities, the NYU course director(s) will identify an independent reviewer who will be tasked with the responsibility of providing an independent review and certification of each presentation where a potential conflict of interest has been identified. The reviewer will also be sent a random selection of other presentations submitted for that CME activity. If the course director(s) cannot identify an independent reviewer, then the NYU SOM will do an independent search for an outside reviewer. For jointly-provided activities, on a case by case basis, either the course director or the NYU SOM will identify the independent reviewer. In cases where the NYU SOM ascertains that there is a high level of conflict of interest that needs to be resolved, the NYU SOM will contract with an outside review firm to hire an independent reviewer.
 - The Independent Reviewer is not to be involved in the planning or execution of this CME Activity and cannot have a relationship with any commercial interest supporting the CME activity.
 - A Clinical Content Review and Validation Form will be prepared that documents the source of evidence that confirms validity. On this form, the Independent Reviewer documents that the activity materials reviewed are fair, balanced and free of commercial bias regarding commercial interests or their products discussed in the activity. This form is submitted by the independent reviewer prior to the activity.
- **Review Form.** The Clinical Content Review and Validation Form will be placed in the online activity file.