

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Review this document prior to submission or peer review, and inform the editor of any potential Conflict of Interest.

Conflict of Interest for Journal Purposes

Conflict of interest in the publication process occurs when influences other than science result in an article being either rejected or published with results or discussion, which misleads the reader. This may ultimately result in a significant disservice to our patients.

Conflict of interest is usually thought to be financial and while this is frequently the case there are other ways that conflict can arise in the development, review and publication of a an article. For example, conflict can occur if there is a strong positive or negative bias toward the authors on the part of the reviewers of the editor handling the manuscript. For the purpose of this statement, an article is defined as any communication in the journal; including original articles, communications-in-brief, case reports, clinical opinions, reviews, letters to the editor and replies as well as editorials. The Editor of **Health Outcomes Research in Medicine** feels strongly that stringent guidelines must be present for each step of the development, evaluation and publication process.

Responsibilities of the Authors

The authors of all articles must inform the editors of any possible conflict of interest. This includes any financial interest the authors may have in the company producing products described in the article; as well as stock options, direct employment, consulting status or membership in a speaker's bureau. Failure to do so may result in significant sanctions. Disclosures will be listed on the first or last page of the article. Authors should not knowingly recommend as a potential reviewer a person with potential conflict of interest either financial or personal, positive or negative bias (i.e. mentor or close personal association).

Responsibilities of the Reviewer

Reviewers must disclose any financial interest they have in the companies producing pharmaceuticals, supplies or equipment to the medical profession. Such financial interest includes stock, direct employment, stock options, consultant or membership in a speaker's bureau. Reviewers should not accept an assignment if they have prior or current close relationships (mentor or colleague) with the authors. Reviewers should not accept the assignment if there is a competitive relationship with or a negative bias toward the authors.

Responsibilities of the Editor

The financial relationship of the editors should be filed with the editorial office and updated annually. The editor should not handle a manuscript if there is a potential conflict of interest. This includes financial interest as well as positive or negative biases toward the author or companies producing materials described in the article. The editors must decide which conflicts disclosed by the author will be listed with the article.

Guidelines for the editors include:

1. Stock with a current value of \$10,000 or greater.
2. Stock options with a projected value of \$10,000 at current prices.
3. Direct employment by company, full or part time.
4. A speaker earning \$1500 or more per year.