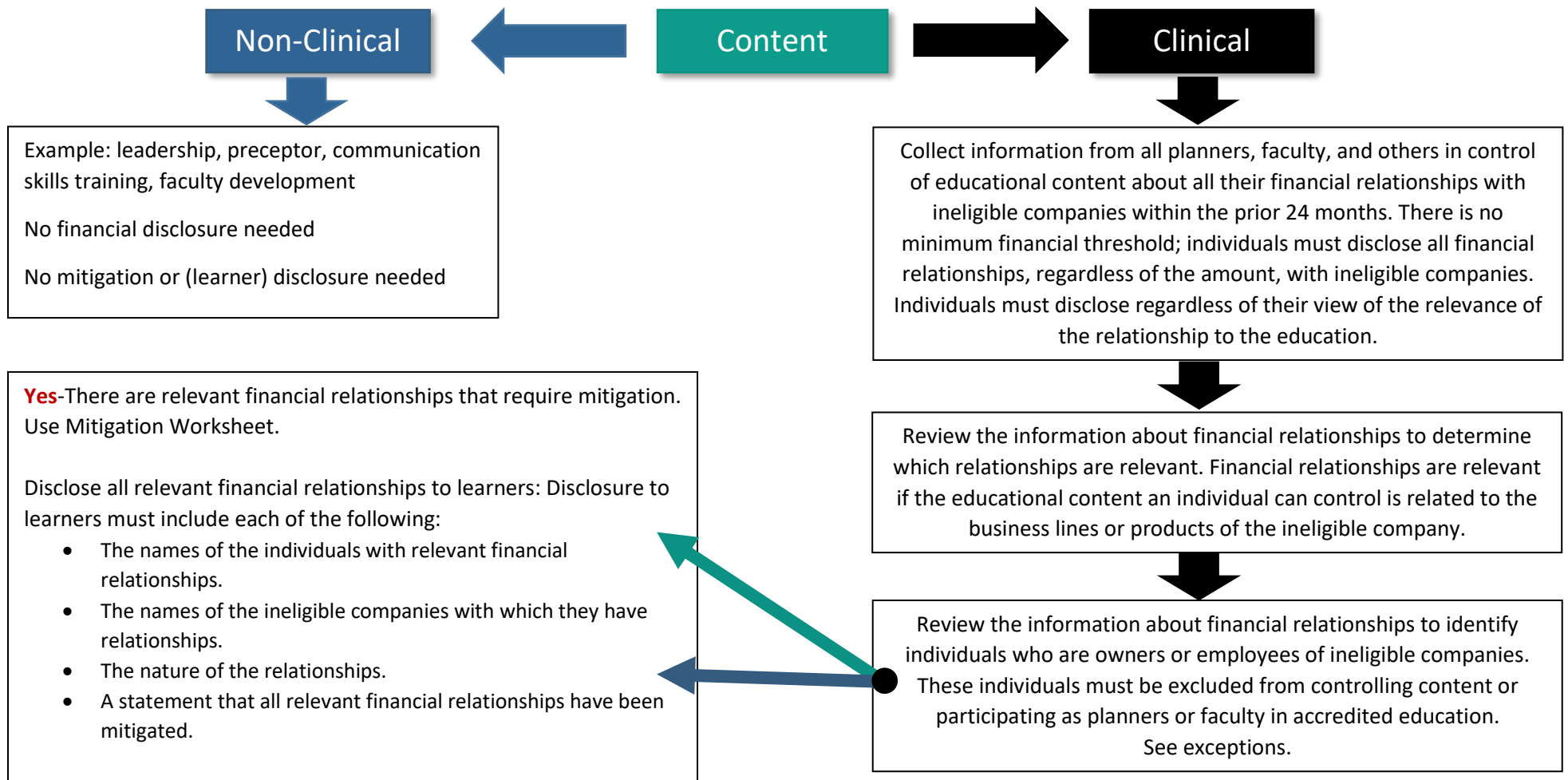


Financial Relationship, Identification, Mitigation and Disclosure Determination



Source: Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, Standard 5

Ineligible company-Companies that are ineligible to be accredited in the ACCME System (ineligible companies) are those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Providers of accredited continuing education do not need to identify, mitigate, or disclose relevant financial relationships for any of the following activities:

- a. Accredited education that is non-clinical, such as leadership or communication skills training.
- b. Accredited education where the learner group is in control of content, such as a spontaneous case conversation among peers.
- c. Accredited self-directed education where the learner controls their educational goals and reports on changes that resulted, such as learning from teaching, remediation, or a personal development plan. When accredited providers serve as a source of information for the self-directed learner, they should direct learners only to resources and methods for learning that are not controlled by ineligible companies.

Exclude owners or employees of ineligible companies: Review the information about financial relationships to identify individuals who are owners or employees of ineligible companies. These individuals must be excluded from controlling content or participating as planners or faculty in accredited education. There are three exceptions to this exclusion—employees of ineligible companies can participate as planners or faculty in these specific situations:

- a. When the content of the activity is not related to the business lines or products of their employer/company.
- b. When the content of the accredited activity is limited to basic science research, such as pre-clinical research and drug discovery, or the methodologies of research, and they do not make care recommendations.
- c. When they are participating as technicians to teach the safe and proper use of medical devices, and do not recommend whether or when a device is used.

When an individual has a relevant relationship with an ineligible company, the Nurse Planner must take implement a process to mitigate the conflict of interest. Actions taken to conflicts of interest must demonstrate mitigation of the identified conflicts of interest prior to providing/presenting the educational activity to learners. Such actions must be documented in the activity file, and the documentation must demonstrate (1) the identified conflict (1) how the conflict of interest was mitigated. Resolution Process may include but not limited to:

- Removing the individual with a conflict of interest from participating in all parts of the educational activity.
- Revising the role of the individual with a conflict of interest so that the relations is no longer relevant to the educational activity.
- Not awarding credit for all or portion of the continuing education activity.
- Undertaking a review by the Nurse Planner, Content Reviewer, or another member of the planning committee for potential bias, balance in presentation, evidence-based content or other indicator of integrity, and absence of bias.

Providers of accredited continuing education are responsible for ensuring that their education is fair and balanced and that any clinical content presented supports safe, effective patient care. (Source: Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, Standard 1)

- All recommendations for patient care in accredited continuing education must be based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning, while giving a fair and balanced view of diagnostic and therapeutic options.
- All scientific research referred to, reported, or used in accredited education in support or justification of a patient care recommendation must conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation.
- Although accredited continuing education is an appropriate place to discuss, debate, and explore new and evolving topics, these areas need to be clearly identified as such within the program and individual presentations. It is the responsibility of accredited providers to facilitate engagement with these topics without advocating for, or promoting, practices that are not, or not yet, adequately based on current science, evidence, and clinical reasoning.
- Organizations cannot be accredited if they advocate for unscientific approaches to diagnosis or therapy, or if their education promotes recommendations, treatment, or manners of practicing healthcare that are determined to have risks or dangers that outweigh the benefits or are known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients.

Worksheet for the Mitigation of Identified Relevant Financial Relationships of Nurse Planners, Content Experts, Faculty, and Others

Step 1: Review collected information about financial relationships and exclude owners or employees of ineligible companies from participating as planners or faculty. After collecting all financial relationships from prospective planners, faculty, and others, exclude any persons who are owners or employees of ineligible companies.

Step 2: Determine relevant financial relationships. Review the information for all persons not excluded in Step 1 and determine whether each person’s financial relationships with ineligible companies are relevant to the content of the education you are planning. Financial relationships are relevant if the following three conditions are met for the prospective person who will control content of the education:

- A financial relationship, in any amount, exists between the person in control of content and an ineligible company.
- The content of the education is related to the products of an ineligible company with whom the person has a financial relationship.
- The financial relationship existed during the past 24 months.

Step 3: Choose a mitigation strategy for each person who has a relevant financial relationship and implement that strategy before the person assumes their role. Using the lists below, identify which mitigation strategy(ies) will be used for all persons with relevant financial relationships who control the educational content of the educational activity. You may select multiple strategies; however, use strategies appropriate to the role(s) that each person has. You can also identify your own strategies for mitigation.

Mitigation steps for planners (choose at least one)

- Divest the financial relationship
- Recusal from controlling aspects of planning and content with which there is a financial relationship
- Peer review of planning decisions by persons without relevant financial relationships
- Use other methods – describe the method

Mitigation steps for faculty and others (choose at least one)

- Divest the financial relationship
- Peer review of content by persons without relevant financial relationships
- Attest that clinical recommendations are evidence-based and free of commercial bias (e.g., peer-reviewed literature, adhering to evidence-based practice guidelines)
- Use other methods – describe the method

STEP 4: Document the mitigation strategy(ies) you used for each person with a relevant financial relationship. (Use the following form.)

Name of Person	Role(s) in Activity	Step(s) to Mitigate Relevant Financial Relationship	Date Implemented
Example: Dr. Jones PhD, MSN	Planning Committee member / speaker	Peer review of content by persons without relevant financial relationships	June 1, 2022

Reviewed 02/2023