

AAOS Guidance Document on Work Groups Developing Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)

The AAOS Board of Directors has adopted this Guidance Document on eligibility to serve on Work Groups Developing Clinical Practice Guidelines.

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AAOS Orthopaedic Disclosure Program Background

1. Each Fellow or Member applying to participate or participating in a CPG Work Group has the obligation to disclose all potentially relevant financial or nonfinancial conflicts of interests through the AAOS Orthopaedic Disclosure Program. Individuals who are not members of the AAOS applying to participate or participating in a CPG Work Group are also required to participate in the AAOS Orthopaedic Disclosure Program.
3. AAOS policy requires detailed financial information for each conflict noted by an applicant or member of a CPG Work Group. This detailed information is not available to the public, is accessible to a limited number of AAOS staff and will be used solely for purposes of resolution of conflict of interest issues.

Disclosures Made by Applicants to serve on CPG Work Groups

1. AAOS staff review the AAOS Orthopaedic Disclosure Program as well as data available via CMS OpenPayments. If a possible relevant financial or nonfinancial conflict of interest is deemed to exist, AAOS staff will contact the applicant for additional information, which may include specific details and clarification as to the relevancy to the CPG topic.
2. If a relevant financial or nonfinancial conflict exists, the applicant is able to divest the conflict or serve as a Key Informant on the project.
3. An applicant denied participation in a CPG Work Group due to perceived relevant financial or nonfinancial conflict may appeal the decision. The CPG Oversight Chair and the CPG Work Group Chair shall discuss the situation with the Chair of the Committee on EBQV and the Chair of the CORQ. If they cannot or elect not to make a determination, the matter will be referred to the Committee on Ethics and Outside Interests, via the Director of Governance. The Committee on Ethics and Outside Interest's decision regarding whether a relevant financial or nonfinancial conflict of interest exists and whether an individual is eligible to serve or remain a member of the CPG Work Group shall be considered final.

CPG Work Group Member Eligibility

1. CPG Work Group members must not have any relevant financial conflicts of interest related to their respective CPG for one year prior to development, during development of the guideline, and for one-year post-approval of the guideline by the AAOS Board of Directors).
2. Financial conflicts of interest will be deemed significant, and preclude participation on the CPG work group, if relevant financial conflicts exceed \$1,000 cumulatively.
3. CPG Work Group members will be asked to verbally disclose any new financial or nonfinancial conflicts of interest at the introductory meeting and at subsequent meetings. AAOS staff will generate a general disclosure report that will be disseminated at the meetings and published in the final CPG.

The AAOS disclosure and conflict of interest processes have been developed with the goal of transparent and appropriate decision-making. This Guidance Document may be modified as other AAOS policies and procedures are developed.

Adopted: June 2012
Revised: October 2015
Updated: October 2017
Revised: April 2019

ATTESTATION

Attestation Statement for Potential Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Work Group Members with No Relevant Conflicts

If you wish to be considered as a candidate to serve on a Work Group that develops AAOS Clinical Practice Guidelines, please know that you will be required to disclose potential conflicts of interest at the same level as the AAOS Board of Directors prior to beginning work on any CPGs. This disclosure is more detailed than regular member disclosure and includes specific financial details.

By signing this affidavit, I am stating that I have no relevant conflicts concerning the subject matter of the CPG titled:

I attest that I will not enter into relationships that might create a conflict of interest situation (i.e. becoming a consultant to an orthopaedic or medical company, etc.) both during the time the CPGs are being developed and for one year after the AAOS Board of Directors approval of the CPGs.

Please Print:

Member Name _____

Member Signature _____

Date _____