CCEPR COMMISSION FOR
CONTINUING EDUCATION
PROVIDER RECOGNITION

September 15, 2023

Dear ADA CERP recognized provider:

Several important changes to ADA CERP took place on July 1 of this year. The purpose of this letter is to review those changes and how they may impact your CE program, and to suggest resources to help you continue to meet ADA CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures.

As you may know, the ADA CERP Eligibility Criteria were revised. As a result, effective July 1, commercial interests may no longer be ADA CERP recognized providers of continuing education.

In a related step, the ADA CERP policy on Joint Providership was revised to state that commercial interests may no longer act as joint providers with ADA CERP recognized providers.

These changes were made to reduce the potential conflicts of interest that arise when entities that produce, market, distribute or re-sell healthcare goods or services used on patients also control the content of continuing education activities.

ADA CERP defines a commercial interest as:

(1) An individual or entity that produces, markets, re-sells or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients, or (2) an individual or entity that is owned or controlled by an individual or entity that produces, markets, resells, or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. Providing clinical services directly to or for patients (e.g., a dental practice, dental lab, or diagnostic lab) does not, by itself, make an individual or entity a commercial interest.

Joint providership: The Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition has published some general resources to help recognized providers understand the changes and how to maintain compliance with ADA CERP recognition standards and procedures. These resources for CE providers are available on CCEPR.ADA.org

- FAQs regarding managing commercial conflicts of interest in continuing education activities
- Slide presentation from a webinar on Understanding the Revised CERP Eligibility Criteria
- ADA CERP policy on joint providership: if your organization partners with another organization or CE provider to jointly plan and administer a CE activity. A commercial interest may not act as a joint provider, and may have no role in suggesting or selecting course topics, content or instructors.
- Review the ADA CERP commercial interest self-assessment questions to help identify if a potential joint provider is a commercial interest.

Commercial support: Your organization may continue to receive support from commercial interests. This has not changed. Any support you receive must be documented with a letter of agreement between your organization and the supporting company; the letter must state what is being given, and the supporting company's agreement that it will have no role in selecting the course topic, content, instructor, etc. You must also disclose the support to your learners.

Things you can do to manage commercial support and ensure independence from commercial influence in CE:
- Review ADA CERP Standard V.
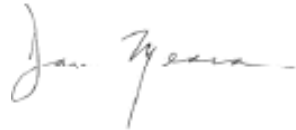- Review examples of documents for managing commercial support.

- Review your templates for letters of agreement to be sure that they stipulate that the supporter may have no role in suggesting or selecting course subjects, content or instructors.

Organizational change: If there are any organizational changes to your CE program, such as a merger or acquisition, new ownership or oversight, this must be reported to the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition within 30 days of the change, as required by the ADA CERP policy on reporting substantive changes.

We encourage you to access these and other resources for CE providers on CCEPR.ADA.org, or contact CCEPR staff with any questions.

The Commission thanks you for your continued commitment to providing continuing dental education that meets standards for scientific integrity and independence from commercial interest

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Meara, MS, MD, DMD
Chair, Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition