

ANNEX 3: Rules for assessment of conflicts

Management Group approved July 2020

These rules are applied to those members whose DOI has been triggered for review, as per Annex 2.

The purpose of the assessment is to enable the Society **to evaluate and manage** the relevance of a declared interest as a potential conflict to its scientific, educational, and advocacy activities.

The following are the **key principles** used to assess the DOIs of such proposed ESC members:

- I. ESC considers the filed DOI as being made in **good faith**.
- II. The existence of a specific conflict of interest with one ESC activity **does not necessarily preclude** a member from participating in other ESC activities.
- III. The Society recognizes that there are varying degrees of conflict.
- IV. The declaring member assumes full responsibility for identifying interests as asked for in the current DOI Declaration Form and is aware that she/he can be prevented from participating in ESC activities, up and to exclusion from the Society.

Once a DOI review is triggered (as per Annex 2), the online review begins.

Evaluation and management of potential conflicts of interest, done by a review committee, are performed online on the DOI platform. The reviewers work as a peer group and can raise questions in the platform discussion forum, both among themselves and/or by asking directly the person who submitted the DOI. When a review is completed, one of the reviewers (already pre-appointed) will close the case, with a positive or negative assessment and the eventual related action. If consensus cannot be found, the issue can be brought to the attention of the Senior Compliance Council for final resolution.

Specific Rules for assessment of conflicts for proposed members of Guideline Task Force, Expert Writing Committee or Scientific Task Force, appointed by any constituent body of the ESC.

Hereunder, the key principles to assess the DOI of such proposed ESC member:

- I. The following relations with a Healthcare Company may result in the exclusion of a member from ESC Guidelines Task Forces and Committees, Expert Writing Committees or Scientific Task Forces appointed by any constituent body of the ESC:
 - Receipt of a direct remuneration or support for the development of a guideline.
 - Employment (even part time), and/or having substantial stock ownership.
 - Holding a patent or an intellectual property which generate substantial revenues.
- II. The following relations with a Healthcare Company would not debar an individual from serving on ESC Guidelines Task Forces and Committees, Expert Writing Committees or Scientific Task Forces appointed by any constituent body of the ESC but would have to be openly declared during the progress of such an activity.



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- Receipt of consultancy fees or fees for lecturing
- Participating in steering committees of clinical trials

Special rules for the positions of CPG Chair, Guidelines Task Force Chair(s) and Guidelines Review Coordinators

- III. Considering the sensitivities and importance of these specific positions, the following additional criteria will be used to assess the existence of a potential conflict of interest
- Direct Personal Payments which are Euro 10,000 or more per annum in aggregate
 - Payments to a department or institution or any other body which are considered to have a modest /substantial impact on a member's remuneration.

It is strongly advised that **Chairs of Guidelines Task Forces** continue following these rules for another 2 years after publication, a period during which the guidelines are normally discussed and implemented.