



COPE STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL SUPPORT

What Has Changed:

1. COPE-Accredited CE must be identified, developed and presented free from the control of a commercial interest.
2. All commercial support must be in the form of an educational grant to the COPE-Approved Administrator/Provider documented by a signed agreement with the Corporate Supporter.
3. There must be a clear separation of any type of product, service, and instrument or device promotion with COPE-Accredited Courses. All commercial exhibits and advertisements must be physically separated from COPE-Accredited Courses.
4. COPE-Accredited Courses cannot deliver specific proprietary business interests and must give balanced coverage to treatment options.
5. Financial relationships with commercial interests of any persons in a position to impact or control the educational content must be disclosed to the learners and to COPE.

Changes for Instructors:

1. The Instructor should submit the course information to COPE. A COPE Approved Administrator/Provider may submit the course on behalf of the instructor, but the instructor must acknowledge the submission and COPE requirements. Under no circumstances can any company with a commercial interest submit a course for COPE accreditation .
2. Under no circumstances can an instructor serve as both the Administrator/Provider and Instructor for a COPE Accredited CE course or event at the same time.
3. All payments and reimbursements to the Instructor must come directly from the COPE Approved Administrator/Provider.
4. Instructors will assure educational materials will not include any advertising or product group message. Instructors will ensure balanced and transparent coverage of therapeutic and treatment options, and must disclose off-label or experimental information.

Changes for CE Administrators/Providers:

1. COPE Approved Administrators/Providers cannot be directly employed by or represent a commercial interest.
2. COPE Approved Administrators/Providers will have full control over every aspect of the event, including topics, speaker selection, scientific content, audience selection and outreach, marketing and promotion, advertising activities and evaluation.
3. A COPE Approved Administrator/Provider may submit a course on behalf of the instructor, but the instructor must acknowledge the submission and adherence to COPE requirements by attaching a dated and signed statement from the instructor when submitting the course.

COPE's mission is to assist member boards by accrediting optometric continuing education.