

# Policy on Social Events at CME Activities

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## PURPOSE

The Policy on Social Events at CME Activities exists to provide guidance for staff, faculty and joint providers on the Ethical Guidelines of the American Medical Association's Council on Judicial Affairs concerning the acceptance of gifts to physicians from commercial supporters.

## VETTING POTENTIAL JOINT SPONSORS TO ASSURE INDEPENDENCE

In general, social events at CME activities should be limited to meal functions and receptions associated with CME activities. Meal functions should be modest in nature and appropriate for the educational setting in which the function takes place.

Certain other social activities may be considered, if they meet the following criteria:

- The purpose of the social event is to enhance the overall success of the educational activity, and to increase the depth of interaction among the attendees and faculty;
- The per person cost of the social event cannot exceed \$31.00;
- The time devoted to the social event must be considerably smaller than the main educational activity (as a general guideline, it should be less than 50% of the time associated with the educational activity);
- The social event must not be lavish; and
- The social event must be structured to promote interaction among the attendees and faculty.

In accordance with the ACCME *Standards for Commercial Support* (Section 8a) and Sunrise Health System's *Policy on Compliance with the ACCME Standards for Commercial Support*, the SHS Office of CME is prohibited from paying travel, housing, registration fees, or personal expenses for non-faculty participants.

Funds from registration fees or departmental funds cannot be used to defray expenses for guests or family members to attend social events. A separate fee must be charged for this purpose.

Description of social events in brochures and other promotional materials must not take precedence over the description of the educational content of the activity, and language used for this purpose must be approved in writing by the Office of CME.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Activity coordinators will utilize a Social Events Checklist when considering the inclusion of a social event at a CME activity.
- Social events should be discussed with the Office of CME staff and approval to include a social event should be made in writing and included in the file.
- If the proposed social event makes staff feel uncomfortable, then it should be considered suspect. If the proposed social event has the appearance of impropriety, then it should not take place.