

CONFLICTS

OF

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INTEREST



DISCLOSURE

 Nothing to disclose.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI)

- 📌 Professional judgment (objectivity) concerning a primary interest tends to be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.
- 📌 Arises when a person's (or an organization's) obligations to a particular patient conflict with their personal interests or obligations
- 📌 If present, the objectivity of the physician/health care professional and the welfare and best interests of the patient can be compromised or put at risk.

Nature of CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI)

📌 Religious

📌 Emotional

📌 Psychological

📌 Health

📌 Social

📌 Personal

📌 Can be actual, apparent, potential, perceived, tangible, or intangible.

Conflicts of Interest: Financial Incentives

- 📌 An interest in making money should not take precedence over the obligation to care for patients
- 📌 Financial interests should be disclosed at an appropriate time and manner .

Conflict of Interest when Physician Undertakes Research

📌 Physician-researcher has a dual role:

- As a **Physician**: "*therapeutic obligation*" — duty to recommend the best treatment for the patient.
- As a **Researcher**: primary obligation is to the integrity of the study
 - Putting half the patients on placebo as a control and the other half on the active new substance
 - Medical experimentation objectifies the patient
 - Utilitarian--societal gains vs individual's best interest.

Conflict of Interest when Physician Undertakes Research

- 📌 Primary interest in research: Truth
- 📌 Secondary interest: personal or financial gain, conscience.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (COI)

- 📌 Intrinsic to research
- 📌 Not necessarily unethical
- 📌 Becomes unethical when person with COI behaves unethically
- 📌 Not dependent on underlying motives
- 📌 Action in context of particular situation
- 📌 *"Could a reasonable person conclude that the secondary interest could influence the investigator's professional conduct?"*

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: POSSIBLE HARMS

1. Injury to participants

- Report and attribution of adverse effects.
- Care given (including Prescriptions) of investigator/clinician.

2. Damage to Research Credibility: Bias

- Selection and retention of participants.
- Collection and reporting of data.
- Selective inattendance or misperceived critical observations.
- Peer review and publication.



CONFLICT OF INTEREST: POSSIBLE HARMES

3. Reduced trust:

- Patient
- Colleagues
- Government
- Sponsors or Funding Agency
- Public

SAFEGUARDS VS. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- 📌 Conscientious ethical soundness.
- 📌 Vigilance: recognize (likelihood and consequence), remove, declare, recuse (abstain).
- 📌 3rd party system of review, evaluation and authorization: Governments, Professional Societies, Institution (Research Ethics Committees).

Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- 📌 Disclose to the patient any major or significant financial conflicts of interest that might interfere with their ability to manage the patient objectively
- 📌 Disclose any such financial conflicts of interest of their spouses, dependent children or relatives.

Addressing Conflicts of Interest

- 📌 Public disclosure of significant financial interests
- 📌 Monitoring/auditing by independent reviewers or bioethics/ oversight committees
- 📌 Modification of the treatment plan
- 📌 Divestiture of significant financial interests
- 📌 Severance of relationships that create actual or potential conflicts.

THANK YOU! 😊

