



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL

INTRODUCTION

The American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses (ASPSN) believes that a conflict of interest policy is needed to support the development of a framework to facilitate collaboration, safeguard professional integrity and to establish public acceptability and trust among patients, their organizations and the general public. A conflict of interest policy includes 1) the disclosure of financial relationships 2) the prohibition of certain relationships 3) the management of potential conflict of interest that are identified.

RATIONALE

A consensus report of the Institute of Medicine [IOM] provides guidelines for addressing conflicts of interest. In this report conflict of interest is defined as a “set of circumstances that creates a risk that the professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest.” (IOM, 2009, p. 2)

Primary interest, the first main element of a conflict of interest, includes promoting and protecting the integrity of research, the welfare of patients and the quality of medical education.

Secondary interest, the second main element of a conflict of interest, may not only include financial gain but also the desire for professional advancement, recognition for personal achievement, and favors to friends and family or students and colleagues.

The third key element is the conflict itself. Conflicts can result from a set of circumstances or relationships that increase the risk that the primary interests will be neglected as a result of the pursuit of secondary interests. A conflict of interest exists whether or not a particular individual or institution is actually influenced by the secondary interest.

Conflicts of obligation involve conflict between what institutions view as employees' primary responsibilities to the institution and the employees' outside commitments (IOM, 2009).

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLASTIC SURGICAL NURSES POSITION/RECOMMENDATIONS

Like the American Academy of Dermatology, ASPSN assumes that every individual is influenced by relationships that color opinions, behavior and participation in decision-making (2014).

Mayo Clinic's guiding principle states that “conflicts of interest are inevitable and can be managed effectively in a majority of cases or eliminated when necessary” (Mayo Clinic, 2012, p. 4)

“Organizations operate best in a climate of trust, openness, and objective decision-making, believing that all involved are putting the interests of the organization and its members first” (American Academy of Dermatology, 2014, Position Statement on Contemporary Issues, para 4).

Recognizing a potential conflict and managing it are essential to achieving an unbiased outcome in an organization.

“The first step to managing a conflict of interest is through disclosure” (Mayo Clinic, 2012, p. 4)

References

American Academy of Dermatology Administrative. (2014). *Regulation on policy and procedures regarding actual or potential conflicts of interest*. Retrieved from <http://www.aad.org/Forms/Policies/Uploads/PS/PS-Conflict%20of%20Interest.pdf>

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Mayo Clinic. (2012). *Conflict of interest policy*. Retrieved from [Http://www.mayo.edu/pmts/mc0200-mc0299/mc0219-09](http://www.mayo.edu/pmts/mc0200-mc0299/mc0219-09)

DISCLAIMER

These clinical practice guidelines and/or recommendations and/or other guidance published herein are provided by the American Society of Plastic Surgical Nurses to assist practitioners in clinical decision-making. The information should not be relied upon as being complete and should not be considered inclusive of all proper treatments, methods of care, or as a statement of the standard of care. All guidelines and recommendations require periodic revision to ensure that clinicians utilize appropriate procedures, and that the materials encompass the recent critical review of literature and expert opinion. The reader must realize that clinical judgment may justify a course of action outside of the recommendations contained herein.

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Approved by ASPSN Board of Directors