



Conflicts of Interest Policy

About the Association

The British Association of Perinatal Medicine is a charity, set up in 1976 to improve the standard of perinatal care in the British Isles. It brings together neonatologists, obstetricians, nurses, midwives and other health professionals who work in practice, teaching and research into all aspects of perinatal medicine as well as those who work for other organisations with an interest in the care of the fetus and the newborn.

The Association is an affiliated specialty group of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) having begun as a group of paediatricians with a special interest in the newborn. It is also recognised as a professional society of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG).

Definition of Conflict of Interest

A working definition of "conflict of interest" is a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. This definition includes any bias or the appearance of bias in a decision-making process that would reflect a dual role carried out by a member of the Association.

The damage caused by such conflicts can be considerable. For example, should doubt be cast on the validity of a document produced by the Association due to an Officer/Executive Committee member/ Working Group member/Advisory Panel member being discovered to have a conflict of interest, there could be considerable reputational damage to the individual and the Association.

This definition is not restricted to those cases in which a conflict of interest actually exists; it can be just as damaging for the conflict to *appear* to exist and it is therefore important for individuals to be protected against criticism or compromise by ensuring that they recognise and disclose potential conflict situations. It is important to note that a conflicts of interest policy does not imply any lack of trust in those working on behalf of the Association.

The Officers (President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer), as Trustees of the Association, will be bound by the rules of the Charity Commission contained in the document "A Guide to Conflicts of Interest for Charity Trustees".

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/Charity_requirements_guidance/Charity_governance/Good_governance/conflicts.aspx

Procedures

1. Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, the individual concerned must disclose all relevant information to the Officers of the Association and thereafter the Executive Committee.

2. Determining whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the relevant information and after any discussion with the individual concerned, the Officers of the Association and, where necessary, Executive Committee members shall decide if a conflict of interests exists.

3. Procedure for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

Where a conflict of interest is deemed to exist or appear to exist, the individual concerned will be asked to stand down from the Working Party/Advisory Panel.

4. Records of Proceedings

All relevant discussions will be minuted by the administrative staff of the Association.

5. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

If the Officers of the Association have reasonable cause to believe an individual has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, they shall inform the individual concerned of the basis for such belief and afford them an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose. If it is deemed that the individual concerned has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, the Officers reserve the right to ask them to stand down from membership of the Association.

6. Annual Statements

All Officers of the Association, members of the Executive Committee, Working Group members and Advisory Panel members shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the Conflicts of Interest policy
- b. Has read and understands the policy
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy