

AAP Committee on CME (COCME) Guidelines for Addressing Intellectual Property In AAP CME Activities

All AAP CME activities must fully comply with the Accreditation Council for CME (ACCME) Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited CME, and all individuals involved with planning and delivering education such as planning group members, editorial board members, presenters, and authors (herein referred to as “*faculty*”) must comply with the AAP Policy on Disclosure of Financial Relationships and Mitigation of Conflicts of Interest.

The COCME recognizes that AAP CME faculty are experts in their specialty or subspecialty, and many have authored or otherwise participated in the development of AAP and non-AAP intellectual property. These intellectual properties include, but are not limited to, publications, books, papers, manuals, digital media, toolkits, and self-assessment materials.

The COCME has set forth guidelines for faculty to follow when participating in an AAP CME activity, when they have collaborated on or developed intellectual property.

I. For intellectual property in which the faculty member receives a financial benefit from sales of the product

Participation in AAP CME activities must meet all standards for disclosing financial support. When authors stand to gain financially, they must disclose their financial support to the AAP and to learners. Faculty who have authored intellectual property and receive a financial benefit from sales of the product must not exploit their participation as invited faculty in an AAP CME activity as an opportunity for self- or product-promotion. Faculty may list their intellectual property, when appropriate, within a listing of references or bibliography in their educational materials (syllabus, handouts, CD-ROM, etc.) associated with the AAP CME activity in which they are participating. It is acceptable to use content from the intellectual property with the appropriate credit given to the source and in compliance with the *AAP Policy on Allegations of Plagiarism*. However, in the CME activity, the faculty member must not:

- a) indicate where or how to purchase or order the intellectual property,
- b) show, display, or market the intellectual property, nor
- c) direct learners to a location, such as an exhibit table, exhibit hall site, or web site, to view, purchase, or order the intellectual property.

II. For intellectual property in which the faculty member does not receive a financial benefit from sales of the product

Faculty who have authored intellectual property, but do not receive a financial benefit from sales of the product, must also meet all standards for disclosing financial support. Faculty must not use their participation in an AAP CME activity as an opportunity for self- or product-promotion. Faculty may list this intellectual property, when appropriate, within a listing of references or bibliography in their educational materials (syllabus, handouts, CD-ROM, etc.) associated with the AAP CME activity in which they are participating. It is acceptable to use content from the intellectual property with the appropriate credit given to the source and in compliance with the *AAP Policy on Allegations of Plagiarism*. However, in the CME activity, the faculty member must not:

- a) indicate where or how to purchase or order the intellectual property,
- b) show, display, or market the intellectual property, nor
- c) direct learners to a location, such as an exhibit table, exhibit hall site, or web site, to view, purchase, or order the intellectual property.

III. For intellectual property developed in association with the AAP

Intellectual properties developed in association with the AAP constitute a special case, for which authors may or may not stand to gain financially. In those cases when authors stand to gain financially from sales of the AAP product, they must disclose their financial support to the AAP (in relation to the CME activity in which they are participating) and to learners.

AAP intellectual property is aimed at educating AAP members to enhance their practice and learning and improve children's health. Faculty may refer both verbally and in visual aids to AAP intellectual property (toolkits, self-assessment materials, patient education materials, Red Book, etc.) with the appropriate credit given to the source and in compliance with the *AAP Policy on Allegations of Plagiarism*. The AAP intellectual property may be included, when appropriate, within a listing of references or bibliography in the educational materials (syllabus, handouts, CD-ROM, etc.) within the context of other similar informational resources available. However, in the CME activity, the faculty member must not:

- a) indicate where or how to purchase or order the intellectual property,
- b) market the intellectual property, nor
- c) direct learners to a location, such as an exhibit table, exhibit hall, or web site, to view, purchase, or order the intellectual property.

IV. Implementation and Compliance

The COCME will rely on CME planning groups, editorial boards, and AAP staff to communicate these guidelines to their faculty and authors, monitor the implementation in their respective AAP CME activities, and take any action needed to ensure compliance. If any action is taken, documentation of such action should be included in the CME activity's accreditation file maintained at the AAP office.

Any questions about these COCME guidelines may be directed to AAP Department of Education staff.

7/08; Revised: 5/10, 1/17, 9/21

AAP Policy on Allegations of Plagiarism **September, 2016**

Introduction

The mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. To accomplish this mission, the AAP shall support the professional needs of its members. The maintenance of public trust and the AAP's integrity, ethical standards, credibility, and identify are of paramount importance in accomplishing that mission and will be protected with the utmost vigilance.

The policy outlined in this document serves as a general guide for the AAP at the national level to address allegations of plagiarism in submitted works for hire, journal articles or educational material.

The AAP expects all scholarly material to be free from either intentional or non-intentional acts of plagiarism and recognizes the need to have a policy that educates authors, editors, and staff about the definition of plagiarism, the AAP's right to check submissions with anti-plagiarism software, the verification and subsequent review process of materials of questionable origin, and consequences.

Definition

The AAP's definition of plagiarism adopts the definition used by the *American Medical Association's Manual of Style*, "Verbatim lifting of passages without enclosing the borrowed material in quotation marks and crediting the original author" - Reference: *AMA Manual of Style*, 10th ed. All scholarly materials submitted to the AAP as works for hire, journal articles or original materials must be original content, created in the authors' own words and not previously published. While the AAP encourages authors to develop educational materials that incorporates AAP publications, all such materials must make attribution to the original source.

Education

All author guidelines, reviewer guidelines, faculty guidelines and new writers' orientations will include the above mentioned definition and will provide examples on how to cite both verbatim and paraphrased content with appropriate attribution. Authors will be advised that the AAP has the right to check all submissions with anti-plagiarism software and take appropriate action as outlined in this policy. All medical editors, reviewers and editorial or advisory boards will receive guidelines to increase awareness of potential plagiarism with suggestions for identifying suspect material.

Discovery and Verification of Findings

All cases of suspected plagiarism should be immediately reported and investigated by the AAP product/project manager. The AAP product/project manager, in consultation with the medical editors and other AAP leadership will review each alleged case and determine if plagiarism has occurred. AAP, in as much as possible, will follow the guidelines set forth by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) in the following flowcharts:

- [Suspected plagiarism in a submitted manuscript](#)
- [Suspected plagiarism in a published manuscript](#)

If plagiarism is suspected, the authors will be asked to respond in writing to the allegations.

Consequences

Upon a determination of guilt, and depending on the authors' responses and in consultation with the AAP product/project manager, and the medical editors, the following next steps are available to AAP leadership:

1. Admonition of guilt by the authors and correction of submitted work

2. Removal of content from online web sites; notice posted
3. Removal of the author from his/her current writing position or editorial board roles, if applicable
4. Disallowed participation from publishing in any AAP scholarly publication in the future
5. Notification to the author's institution or superior

All authors, including co-authors, will be notified in writing of any subsequent actions taken by the AAP.

If the author or co-authors do not respond to correspondence, AAP reserves the right to move forward with any of the above actions.