

Conflict of Interests (CoI)

Arun Nanivadekar, MD MSc

Definition

- ❑ A situation in which protection or promotion of one interest can occur only at the expense of another interest.
 - ❑ Also called “competing interests”
-

Prevalence

- ❑ Col is present in all spheres of life.
 - ❑ Col cannot be totally avoided or eliminated.
 - ❑ Col can be recognized and controlled or minimized.
-

Objectives in medicine

- Revenue
 - Reputation
 - Advancement of knowledge
 - What to research?
 - Application of knowledge
 - How to benefit from what we know
 - Respect
-

CoI in medical practice

- ❑ Two roles of a doctor:
 1. Purchasing manager for patients.
 2. Marketing manager for health care providers.
 - ❑ These roles are conflicting.
 - ❑ The conflict can be minimized if its presence is recognized and admitted.
-

CoI in medical research

- ❑ Pursuit of knowledge vs. promotion of product or service
 - ❑ Interest of participants vs. interest of sponsor or self
 - ❑ Interest of science vs. interest of self
 - ❑ Susceptible parties include sponsors, investigators and EC members
-

CoI in medical publication

- ❑ Susceptible parties include sponsors, authors, reviewers, editors and publishers
 - ❑ Studies: all or some; guidelines(!)
 - ❑ Authors: contributors or celebrities
 - ❑ Issue: main or supplement
 - ❑ Incentives: advertisements, reprints, personal favors
-

Diagnosis of CoI

- ❑ Alertness about its presence
 - ❑ Undeclared \neq absent
 - ❑ Specific inquiry if CoI probable, but not declared, by authors and reviewers
 - ❑ Registry of all studies
 - ❑ Agreements with institutions and ECs
-

Management of Col

- ❑ Continual efforts to increase awareness of its possibility
 - ❑ SOP to encourage its declaration and, consequently, its avoidance
 - ❑ Containment through help of persons who do not have Col in a given situation
-