



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

ANNEX 3: Rules for assessment of conflicts

The following rules are applied to those members whose DOI is reviewed, as per Annex 2.

The purpose of the assessment is to enable the Society **to evaluate and manage** the relevance of a declared interest as a potential conflict to its scientific, educational, and advocacy activities.

The following are the **key principles** used to assess the DOIs of such proposed ESC members:

- I. ESC considers the filed DOI as being made in **good faith**.
- II. The existence of a specific conflict of interest with one ESC activity **does not necessarily preclude** a member from participating in other ESC activities.
- III. The Society recognizes that there are varying degrees of conflict.
- IV. The declaring member assumes full responsibility for identifying interests as asked for in the current DOI Declaration Form and is aware that she/he can be prevented from participating in ESC activities, up and to exclusion from the Society.

Evaluation and management of potential conflicts of interest are done by a review committee and performed online on the DOI platform. The reviewers work as a peer group and can raise questions in the platform discussion forum, both among themselves and/or by asking directly the person who submitted the DOI. When a review is completed, one of the reviewers (pre-appointed to perform this task) will close the case with a positive or negative assessment, noting the eventual related action. If consensus cannot be found, issues can be brought to the attention of the Senior Compliance Council for final resolution.

Specific rules for assessment of conflicts

- I. Guideline authors and review panels, namely task force chairs, members, review coordinators, reviewers, applicable from 2024 Guidelines going forward, and members of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee, applicable from 2022-2024 term going forward*:
 - The following relations with a healthcare company during the year prior the beginning of the activity and until publication, will result in the exclusion of a member from ESC Guidelines activities:
 - Receipt of more than EUR 10,000 in personal payments, direct or indirect per annum in aggregate, applicable to member and spouse income. Indirect payments are intended as payments to a department or institution or any other body which impact a member's (or his/her spouse) remuneration.
 - *For Guidelines published prior to 2024, and CPG Committee prior to 2022-2024, the limit on EUR 10,000 in direct and indirect payments from industry only applies to Task Force Chairs, Review Coordinators and CPG Committee Chair.
 - Receipt of a direct remuneration or support for the development of a guideline.
 - The following relations with a healthcare company during the year prior the beginning of the activity and until publication, will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the DOI review committee and may lead to possible restrictions or exclusion of a member from ESC Guidelines activities:
 - Employment (even part time).
 - Having substantial stock ownership.
 - Holding a patent or an intellectual property which generate substantial revenues.



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It is strongly advised to continue to comply with these rules for another two years after publication of the ESC Guidelines, a period during which the guidelines are normally discussed and implemented.

- II. Scientific Document authors and reviewers appointed by ESC Associations, Working Groups and Councils to write official scientific documents:
 - The following relations with a healthcare company during the year prior the beginning of the activity and until publication, will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the DOI review committee leading to possible restrictions or exclusion:
 - Receipt of a direct remuneration or support for the development of a document.
 - Employment (even part time).
 - Having substantial stock ownership.
 - Holding a patent or an intellectual property which generate substantial revenues.

- II. Editors in Chief (applicable as of August 2022 for new appointments):
 - The following relations during the year prior the beginning of the appointment and until its end, will result in the exclusion of a member from the position of Editor in Chief:
 - Simultaneously serve as Editor in Chief of another scientific publication
 - Employment (even part time) by healthcare industry

- III. Publications Committee Chair:
 - The following relations during the year prior the beginning of the appointment and until its end, will result in the exclusion from the position of Publications Committee Chair:
 - Simultaneously serve as Editor in Chief of another scientific publication
 - Employment (even part time) by healthcare industry