



American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Conflict of Interest

The Board maintains a rigorous conflict of interest policy, which is communicated to all ABPN committee and Board members. As noted in that policy, to maintain the confidence of the public and the medical profession in the integrity of the Board, it is important for those doing its work to avoid certain activities that could provide opportunity for a conflict of interest or the appearance thereof. A conflict of interest is defined as an instance wherein a competing outside activity or holding could influence or appear to influence the Board's activities in the areas of policy development, training or other eligibility requirements, or development of examinations, other assessments, or continuing certification activities.

No Board member shall participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in which he or she (or a member of their immediate family) has a conflict of interest. All board employees and officers shall avoid all conflicts and disclose all potential conflicts between their respective personal, professional, or business interests and the interests of the Board.

As an alternative to regulating investment or employment, the Board has chosen to manage matters related to the appearance of a conflict of interest by requiring disclosure of significant financial interests or relationships and abstention from participation in decision-making related to a matter that could give rise to a conflict of interest (due to a material financial interest or relationship).

As one example of the application of the policy: any individual who participates in any activity publicized, or that could be construed, as being a board review course, or who has edited or provided written or audiovisual materials for publications identified as preparation for Board examinations, is precluded from participation in Board activities for at least 12 months subsequent to the course or publication of any written or audiovisual materials.

Another instance of this policy's application is that any person serving on the board of directors of another examining or certifying organization in psychiatry or neurology, or participating in the development of the other organization's examinations, will be considered ineligible as a Board member or a test development committee member.

Annually, all Board personnel (including volunteers serving on committees) are required to complete a form disclosing specified outside financial interests and fiduciary responsibilities; potential or actual conflicts of interest are then identified and managed in accordance with the policy.