



New CCJM policy: No manufacturer involvement in the preparation of articles

With this issue of the CCJM, we are establishing a more formal policy regarding the publication of articles that pharmaceutical or device manufacturers have helped prepare.

In the past,¹ we considered such articles for publication, especially when the review article described a new drug or device and experts from the manufacturer had special expertise. Our rationale was that when a new drug or device was introduced, it was those physicians most familiar with the drug or device and the raw data who could best discuss its use.

We have tried to ensure that all articles with manufacturer involvement were free of bias, conducting extra peer review and often asking for extensive revisions. We feel we have been successful, but we have grown concerned with the increasing number of papers we have received in which manufacturers have been involved with the preparation of the manuscript, either directly or with the paid enlistment of a medical education company.

Because of the burden this places on our peer-review process, along with our commitment to keeping CCJM articles as free from bias as possible, we have decided to change that policy. We will no longer consider for publication in regular monthly issues of the CCJM any review article in which a manufacturer played a part in the preparation of the manuscript, either directly or through payment to the author or a surrogate.

We will continue to consider articles written by experts who declare relationships with companies, such as accepting research grants or serving as consultants. Such experts often know the most about new devices and drugs. Still, we feel we must draw the line at a direct pharmaceutical company role in the development and preparation of articles. We will continue to alert our readers to all potential conflicts of interest or bias.

There will be losses with this policy. There will be times when a new drug or device is approved and we will have difficulty finding a knowledgeable author to quickly update our readers. However, we feel these losses will be balanced by increased confidence in the credibility of our articles.

Of course, we welcome any comments from readers, authors, manufacturers, or medical education companies.

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Editor-in-Chief

■ REFERENCES

1. Clough JD, Mandell BF. Of bias, babies, and bathwater. *Cleve Clin J Med* 2000; 67:231.