

**DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

**TO: OFFICERS, COUNCILORS, AND TRUSTEES**

**FR: MARK J. ADAMS, MD, MBA, FACR, MSSNY COMMISSIONER ON  
MEDICAL EDUCATION**

**MIRIAM HARDIN, PHD, MANAGER, CONTINUING MEDICAL  
EDUCATION**

**Re: REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

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**Report of the MSSNY Committee on Continuing Medical Education**

**John Maese, MD**

The Committee on Continuing Medical Education oversees the Subcommittee on Educational Programs (which fulfills MSSNY's role as Accredited Provider) and the Subcommittee on Surveys (which fulfills MSSNY's role as Recognized Accreditor). Each Subcommittee makes a report of their activities and decisions and the full Committee ratifies those decisions.

The Subcommittee on Surveys reports are provided by the Chair, Sandhya Malhotra, MD. The Subcommittee on Educational Programs reports are provided by Charles Gonzalez, MD. All subcommittee members must be members of the full CME Committee.

Since the Council's September meeting, the CME Committee has met once, on October 2, 2020. During the meeting, the committee discussed Council's decision to not adopt the CME Committee's proposed policy change, which would have been that "MSSNY does not, under any circumstances, use employees of ACCME-defined commercial interests as faculty or planners of accredited CME." ACCME prohibits use of employees of a commercial interest in any role affecting the content of CME, except under three narrow "special use" exceptions related to: 1) reporting about research and discovery; 2) demonstrating the operational aspects of the use of a device; and, 3) controlling content that is not related to the product lines of the commercial interest. A provider must demonstrate that it complies with ACCME requirements to ensure independence in these specific circumstances. By not adopting the proposed change in policy, Council leaves open the possibility of engaging in the special-use circumstances. The CME Committee accepted the decision of Council.

In addition, the committee approved an update to the relevant financial relationship (RFR) form. The update clarifies that individuals in control of CME content are being asked to disclose relevant financial relationships with commercial interests (defined in the glossary on the second page), instead of "the manufacturer of the

products or services that will be presented in this CME activity." The ACCME defines a "commercial interest" as any entity producing, marketing, re-selling, or distributing health care goods or services, used on, or consumed by, patients. The ACCME does not consider providers of clinical service directly to patients to be commercial interests. "Manufacturer" does not capture all aspects of the definition.

### **Report of the Subcommittee on Educational Programs** **Charles Gonzalez, MD, Chair**

Since the Council's September meeting, the Subcommittee on Educational Programs has met once, on October 21. During that meeting, the subcommittee approved one directly provided activity. During the September 16 meeting (which occurred after the September Council Report was prepared), the subcommittee approved one directly provided series of activities, as well as the renewal of five directly provided CME enduring materials.

### **Report of the Subcommittee on Surveys** **Sandhya Malhotra, MD, Chair**

Since the Council's September meeting the Subcommittee on Surveys has met once, on October 2, 2020. Because there were no reaccreditation decisions to act upon, the subcommittee opted to devote the meeting time to surveyor training.

### **Miscellaneous**

As the ACCME Recognized Accreditor in New York State, MSSNY has awarded accreditation status to 30+ organizations across New York State. The MSSNY Office of Continuing Medical Education manages the accreditation of these organizations and holds a monthly web-conference with all MSSNY-accredited providers to discuss CME requirements and issues. Since the September Council meeting, the web-conference was held once, on October 9, 2020. When Council meets on November 5, 2020, the November session will have taken place on November 4.

On September 25, 2020, the MSSNY CME Provider Virtual Conference was held via Zoom. Speakers included Graham McMahon, MD, President and CEO of the ACCME and Aletha Maybank, MD, Chief HealthEquity Officer and Group Vice President for the AMA. MSSNY President Bonnie Litvack, MD welcomed participants and introduced Dr. McMahon.