



CONSEIL QUÉBÉCOIS
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT
PROFESSIONNEL CONTINU
DES MÉDECINS

UPDATE OF CQDPCM'S CODE OF ETHICS FOR CPD

Webinaire présenté en français par le
Conseil québécois de développement professionnel continu des médecins (CQDPCM)
This document was translated in English for handout purposes only.

28 mai 2026

Accréditation

Cette activité a été approuvée par **la Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec et par la Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec**, organismes pleinement agréés en formation continue par le Collège des médecins du Québec, qui reconnaissent **1 heure d'activité de développement professionnel reconnue** aux fins du Règlement sur la formation continue obligatoire des médecins du CMQ.

La présente activité est une activité de formation collective agréée (section 1) au sens que lui donne le programme de Maintien du certificat (MDC) du Collège royal des médecins et chirurgiens du Canada.



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IMPORTANT MESSAGE

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Identify the key guiding principles of the CQDPCM's Code of Ethics for CPD
- Describe the new structure of the Code of Ethics and the main changes resulting from its update
- Apply the Code's standards and requirements at every stage of designing a CPD activity

Content

**Guiding
Principles
and main
changes to
the Code**

40 minutes

Discussion

20 minutes – Q/A

Divulgation de conflits d'intérêts potentiels

Maryse Bouthat

- Conseillère principale de la direction du DPC de la FMSQ
- Vice-présidente du CQDPCM
- Perspectives du DPC pour les médecins spécialistes

D^{re} Isabelle Noiseux

- Directrice de la Formation professionnelle de la FMOQ
- Médecin de famille
- Présidente-sortante du CQDPCM
- Perspective du DPC pour les médecins de famille

Nicole Parent, Ph.D.

- Directrice générale, Médecins francophones du Canada
- Présidente du CQDPCM
- Perspective DPC au Canada

Mesure d'atténuation : Les membres du comité exécutif du CQDPCM ont révisé les diapositives



About the CQDPCM



CQDPCM – Excellence in CPD

- A Quebec-based organization whose mission is to promote excellence in CPD for physicians in Quebec.
- The CQDPCM fosters collaboration among the various stakeholders in CPD to harmonize practices and ensure high-quality continuing education.
- It ensures that CPD activities are purely educational, neutral, and free from any commercial bias.



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CQDPCM's Code of Ethics in CPD



Background and Development of the Code of Ethics in CPD

- 1995 : initial guidelines governing the relationship between medical organizations and commercial entities in medical education
- 2003 : The CQDPCM publishes Quebec's first Code of Ethics for CPD
- 2016 : entry into force of the current Code
- 2025 : ongoing development to support high-quality, credible training programs that serve the public

Why Update the Code of Ethics?

Adapting to Changes in CPD

To account for rapidly evolving training practices, virtual delivery methods, and technological tools.

Enhancing Transparency and Trust

To clarify expectations regarding educational independence and relationships with funding partners, in a context of increased accountability.

Clarifying roles and responsibilities

To address certain gray areas identified in the former Code and provide a clearer framework for all CPD stakeholders.

Supporting CPD aligned with current standards

To promote high-quality, relevant, and socially responsible activities consistent with current CPD standards, values, and expectations.

Fundamental Principles of the Code of Ethics

The industry's contribution: real and indispensable, particularly when it comes to innovation

Key requirement: the physician's professional independence and autonomy

All CPD activities must be:


- planned, implemented, and managed for educational purposes
- without any promotional intent, whether direct or indirect

No product or service should be promoted





Purpose and Scope of the Code

- Preventing and managing actual or potential conflicts of interest
 - Organizers
 - Key contacts
 - Participants
- Preventing any interference from a funding agency
 - Scientific content
 - Educational messages
- Providing a clear framework
 - Educational
 - Ethical
 - Administrative
- Ultimate goal: improving the quality of care for the public



Key Changes to the CQDPCM's Code of Ethics for CPD



Addition of a section: Applicability

- The CQDPCM's Code of Ethics for CPD applies to all accredited CPD activities taking place in Quebec.
- It also applies to CPD activities outside Quebec that are accredited by a Quebec or national organization approved by the Collège des médecins du Québec.
- The Code aims to provide a clear and uniform framework, thereby strengthening credibility and trust in CPD.

APPLICABILITÉ

Les interactions entre les médecins et les organismes subventionnaires, dont les sociétés commerciales, peuvent prendre plusieurs formes. Elles incluent la recherche et la promotion des produits et services, la consultation et le DPC. Les règles d'éthique présentées dans ce document encadrent les activités de DPC. Le Code d'éthique en DPC du CQDPCM s'applique à toute activité de DPC accréditée se déroulant en territoire québécois. Il s'applique également aux activités de DPC hors Québec accréditées par un organisme québécois ou national agréé par le Collège des médecins du Québec.

PRINCIPES DIRECTEURS

Les principes directeurs établissent les fondements des normes éthiques essentielles appliquées à chaque phase du processus de création d'un [programme de DPC](#), depuis sa conception, sa mise en œuvre, jusqu'à l'évaluation. Ils englobent les actions, qu'elles soient directes ou indirectes, de tous les acteurs impliqués dans ce processus. En conséquence, les principes de rigueur scientifique, d'indépendance pédagogique et de responsabilité sociale doivent primer.

» 1. RIGUEUR SCIENTIFIQUE

La rigueur scientifique est un principe fondamental dans la conception et la mise en œuvre des programmes de DPC. Les [organismes](#) et les [personnes-ressources](#) veillent à ce que les contenus reposent sur les meilleures données disponibles, des études scientifiques validées et des pratiques médicales actualisées. L'intégration constante des avancées scientifiques dans ces programmes vise à fournir aux médecins des connaissances précises et pertinentes pour leur pratique clinique. Ainsi, les formations médicales encouragent la recherche de l'excellence scientifique, favorisent l'esprit critique et promeuvent une approche fondée sur des preuves solides. Cette démarche contribue à maintenir et à améliorer la qualité des soins de santé dispensés par les médecins, tout en soutenant l'engagement éthique envers la rigueur et l'intégrité dans l'exercice de la profession médicale.

A redesigned structure

Before

- Definitions
- Guiding Principles
- Financial Considerations
- Special Circumstances

After

- Applicability
- Guiding Principles
- Standards and Requirements
- Glossary



New addition to the section: Guiding Principles

Scientific Rigor

Educational Independence

- Transparency
- Impartiality

Social Responsibility

- Accountability
- Equity - Diversity - Inclusion
- Collaboration

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New Section: Standards and Requirements

NORMES ET EXIGENCES

» 1. CONTENU SCIENTIFIQUE DE L'ACTIVITÉ DE DPC

» 2. GESTION ET LOGISTIQUE DE L'ACTIVITÉ

» 3. GESTION DES BIAIS ET DES CONFLITS D'INTÉRÊTS POTENTIELS

» 4. CONSIDÉRATIONS FINANCIÈRES

» 5. PROMOTION DE L'ACTIVITÉ

Scientific Content of the CPD Activity

Responsibility for organizing a CPD activity

- Medical Organization
- Organizing Committee
- Scientific Committee

Methodical Approach to Education

- Target Population
- Needs Analysis
- Learning Objectives
- Types of Training Activities and their Content
- Resource Persons
- Activity Evaluation

Medical Organization

Exclusion List:

- Government departments or agencies
- Communications companies
- Pharmaceutical companies
- Companies that manufacture medical devices, orthotics, appliances, or supplies
- Medical laboratory companies
- Companies that manufacture dietary supplements or non-prescription health products
- Patient foundations or patients organizations


Logistics Management of the Activity

Social Activities: Cannot be funded by funding organizations. Nor may they participate, directly or indirectly, in the planning, support, or funding of social events.

Draws, Prizes and Other Incentives: Exhibitors may not distribute promotional items, prizes, gifts, gift cards, food, candy, product samples, or branded items (pens, magnets, etc.).

Exhibitor Area: All commercial booths and displays must be located in a dedicated room separate from educational activities. OLA or satellite symposia are prohibited.

The online/virtual exhibition hall must be on a separate tab or page from the scientific content broadcast page. It requires the participant to take action to access it and informs the user that this content is not part of the accredited scientific program.



Logos : Logos are permitted only in the event's designated commercial area.

Reception Area: Separate from the exhibitors' area. No posters bearing the sponsors' logos may be displayed at the reception area for a scientific activity.

Webcasting Platform: The educational, ethical, and administrative criteria are the same as for in-person activities.



Addition to the Code of Ethics: OLA / Satellite Activity

These activities are prohibited in conjunction with an accredited activity.

These activities do not comply with the CQDPCM's Code of Ethics for CPD at various levels, the three main ones being:

- Scientific content with the appearance of commercial bias;
- Speaker and resource person fees paid directly by the sponsor or pharmaceutical company;
- Non-compliance with the methodical approach.



Biases and Potential Conflicts of Interest

Clarification of Key Concepts

What's changing:

- Explicit and harmonized definitions:
 - Affiliation
 - Bias
 - Actual conflict of interest
 - Potential conflict of interest
- Clear recognition of the link between bias and conflicts of interest
- Clarification that both for-profit and non-profit organizations can introduce bias



Declaration, Disclosure... and Mitigation

- Mandatory written disclosure of affiliations from the past two years
- Verbal and written disclosure at the start of the activity
 - Including in the absence of an affiliation
- New explicit requirement
 - Declaration
 - Disclosure
 - **Documented and disclosed mitigation measures**
- Obligation for the Scientific Committee:
 - to review disclosures prior to the event;
 - to have a procedure in place for mitigating bias or conflicts of interest;
 - to propose mitigation measures

Responsibilities and Reflections on Bias

- Explicit consideration of all types of bias:
 - Commercial
 - Institutional
 - ideological, political, and other
- Clear distinction:
 - possible positive biases
 - commercial biases that are unacceptable in CPD
- Resource persons:
 - must present balanced and critical information
 - should ideally refrain from participating in OLA
 - must prioritize accredited activities
- Participants called upon to play an active role:
 - critical judgment
 - assessment of biases and disclosures



Financial Considerations

Basic Standard

Financial transactions must be managed by the medical organization

Any grant intended for educational purposes must be mentioned in the program and disclosed at the beginning of the activity by means of a slide

Educational Grants

Funds provided to a medical organization for the purpose of carrying out a CPD activity

Governed by a contract or a letter of agreement

The sponsor has no say over the scientific content

No say in the selection of resource persons

Rental of Kiosk Space

- Separate contract for an educational grant
- Allows the grantee to act as an exhibitor in the commercial area (exhibitor zone)
- The medical organization is responsible for the commercial area (exhibitor zone)



Financial Responsibility

- The fees for the resource persons are covered by the medical organization
- The sponsor may not directly assume the costs for the following:
 - Fees for the resource persons
 - Accomodation or transportation for resource persons
 - Webcasting or videoconferencing services
 - Audiovisual services, room rentals or meals for conferences or symposia
- Recommendation to use multiple funding sources to minimize bias
- Participants in a CPD activity, including a training of trainers, may not receive financial compensation for their participation

Promotion of the Activity

Program

- Date, location, schedule
- Organization responsible for the activity
- Target audience
- Objectives
- Resource persons
- **Accreditation statement**

Invitation

- General information
- Resource persons
- **Accreditation statement**
- Link to the program
- Registration instructions

Registration

- Confirmation of participation
- Optional sessions choices
- Processing fees
- Compliance with the *Loi sur les renseignements personnels*

Promotion of the activity

Content

- Program
- Invitation
- Registration

Communication Tools


- Websites
- Emails
- Social media
- Mobile apps

Universal rule

- No advertising, logos, product name or trademark.
- Only the acknowledgment of the sponsors at the bottom of the invitation, without a logo, using the same font and without categorization.

Key Messages



- 
- 1. Reaffirmed principles, clarified responsibilities:** The updated Code retains the fundamental ethical principles but further clarifies responsibilities (medical organizations, scientific committees, speakers, etc.)
 - 2. New structure:** The revision clarifies the steps and introduces sections to facilitate the day-to-day application of the requirements.
 - 3. Targeted changes to enhance transparency and quality:** Among other things, new rules on managing conflicts of interest to improve the quality of and trust in CPD activities.



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[Lien vers le Code d'éthique \(en français\)](#)

[Lien vers le Code d'éthique \(version anglaise\)](#)

[Lien pour commander une copie du vade-mecum en DPC, 3e édition](#)

Merci!