

The National Standard at a glance: What's changing?

Topic	Current	National Standard
Scientific Planning Committee (SPC) decisions	Industry members cannot participate in decision-making on the scientific planning committee.	In addition to industry members, other for-profit and not-for-profit sponsor organizations cannot participate in decision-making on the scientific planning committee. <i>Sub-element 1.3</i>
Managing non-compliance with the National Standard	SPC is required to manage non-compliance with specific CPD activity accreditation standards such as conflict of interest.	SPC must now have mechanisms in place to manage non-compliance with ALL elements of the National Standard. <i>Sub-element 2.4</i>
Disclosing conflicts of interest	Individuals must disclose relationships with for-profit organizations only.	Individuals must now disclose ALL relationships with for-profit <i>and</i> not-for-profit organizations. <i>Sub-element 3.1</i>
Written agreements with sponsors	Written agreements are not required between sponsors and providers or the scientific planning committee.	Written agreements are now required between sponsors and providers or the scientific planning committee. <i>Sub-element 4.3</i>
Payment of expenses	(Royal College) Payment of honoraria and travel expenses is the responsibility of the physician organization. Other expenses could have been delegated to a 3rd party. (CFPC) Current standards do not assign the responsibility to pay honoraria or other expenses to a specific organization or individual.	Payment of travel, lodging, legitimate out of pocket expenses and any honoraria offered to members of the SPC, speakers, moderators, facilitators and/or authors may now be delegated to a third-party organization but the CPD provider organization or SPC must retain overall accountability. The CPD provider organization or SPC can never delegate these payments to a commercial interest. <i>Sub-element 4.4</i>
Adherence to privacy, confidentiality, and copyright	Current standards do not specify requirements to adhere to privacy, confidentiality and copyright laws when interacting with sponsors.	The National Standard explicitly requires CPD providers to adhere to privacy, confidentiality and copyright laws when interacting with sponsors. <i>Sub-element 4.9</i>
Acknowledging sponsors	Sponsors are not required to be recognized with a standard acknowledgment statement. Sponsors were, however, expected to be recognized separate from the educational content.	Sponsors must still be recognized separately from the educational content and they must now be recognized with a standard acknowledgment statement. <i>Sub-element 5.1</i>
Approving incentives	Current standards do not require providers to approve proposed incentives that exhibitors wish to distribute to participants.	If exhibitors wish to distribute any incentives to participants within an accredited CPD activity, the exhibitor must now receive approval from the CPD provider organization. <i>Sub-element 6.5</i>