

As a fully accredited continuing medical education (CME) provider, we at North American Center for Continuing Medical Education (NACCME) are proud to bring the highest quality accredited CME to US healthcare professionals, complying with the stringent criteria set forth by governing bodies to ensure rigorous, unbiased education. In turn, healthcare providers are able to employ the latest in clinical knowledge and positively affect outcomes for patients across the nation.

Understandably, we are deeply concerned that the CMS policy proposed in early July 2014 may effectively eliminate the Sunshine Act reporting exemption for accredited CME. Although we recognize that the stated goal of this policy change is to expand the definition of Sunshine Exempt CME, we remain apprehensive that the proposed language would instead eliminate the current CME safe harbor from reporting by redefining CME payments as indirect payments, which may ultimately be reportable.

We request that in moving forward, indirect commercial support for CME programs in which the accredited provider exercises complete discretion on the content remains exempted from reporting under the Open Payments system.

As it is vital to maintain an environment in which medical personnel can assist in providing CME, it is as essential to America's doctors that they have clear rules that provide a safe harbor from Open Payments reporting when they participate in accredited CME, which is currently provided in the Final Rule. As CMS looks to incorporate policy changes moving forward, we implore you to create a clear "safe harbor" for CME participants in which those partaking in accredited CME activities remain unreportable.

Thank you, as always, for your consideration.

North American Center for Continuing Medical Education (NACCME), LLC