

4.0 DEFINITIONS

See Glossary of Terms.

5.0 PROCEDURE

COI (real, potential or perceived) arise when an individual in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests. Such competing interests may influence their professional judgment, objectivity and independence and can potentially influence the outcome of a decision, for personal benefit. A COI may exist even if no unethical or improper act results from the conflict.

Researchers and research staff should identify and manage COI to maintain the public confidence and trust and to maintain the independence and integrity of the research process. If a COI cannot be avoided, procedures should be in place to manage and/or to mitigate the conflict.

This SOP is not intended to prohibit Researcher relationships with companies; however, the REB should ensure that participant protection, the integrity of the ethics review, and the conduct of the research are not jeopardized by an unidentified and unmanaged COI.

REBs should identify and manage COI to maintain the public confidence and trust and to maintain the independence and integrity of the ethics review. If a COI cannot be avoided, procedures should be in place to mitigate the conflict.

The REB must be perceived to be fair and impartial, immune from pressure either by the sponsor, affiliated organizations or the Researchers whose research is being



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5.2.5 The REB may approve the research and may require a management plan, which may include changes at the Researcher's or sponsor's expense, to eliminate or to mitigate the conflict. The researcher may be required to provide a management plan for review by the REB. Required actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Divestiture or termination of relevant economic interests,
- Mandating Researcher recusal from research,
- Modifying or limiting the participation of the Researcher in all or in a portion of the research,
- In cases involving equity, by imposing a bar on insider trading or requiring the transfer of securities to an independent financial manager or blind trust, or limited the timing of sales or distributions,
- Monitoring research (i.e., independent review of data and other retrospective



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7.0 REVISION HISTORY

SOP Code	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
SOP105B.001	15-Sept-2014	Original version
SOP105B.002	08-Mar-2016	No revisions needed
SOP105B.003	08-Oct-2019	5.2.5: inclusion of: