

**Remedica Medical Education and Publishing: Standards and Processes**

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**Mission Statement**

Remedica Medical Education and Publishing's (hereafter Remedica's) mission is to identify the educational needs of physicians and other healthcare professionals, and to satisfy these needs through publication and distribution of appropriate, informative, and high-quality educational materials. The ultimate aim of these educational publications is to raise the standard of care offered to patients. Educational grants, to support development and distribution of these educational publications in print and online, are sought from commercial supporters. Remedica also works with ACCME (and other recognized bodies for CE) accredited co-sponsors to enable these educational publications to deliver CME (and CE) credits to physicians (and other healthcare professionals) in the USA.

**Remedica Good Publishing Practice**

- Independent, educational publications published by Remedica and supported by educational grants from pharmaceutical or medical device companies are published for scientific and/or educational purposes and are not for promotion of any product; therefore, any discussion of pharmaceutical products or medical devices will be objective, balanced, and scientifically rigorous.
- Remedica, in conjunction with the clinical editorial staff (including Editor(s)-in-Chief, Clinical Editors, or Editorial Advisory Board members, authors, and contributors), is responsible for exercising control over the content, audience, and selection of contributing authors and editors of its educational publications.
- Every editor or reviewer working within or for Remedica has responsibility for upholding the independence, scientific rigor, balance, and objectivity of the title in question.
- Remedica will not solicit or accept undue direction or influence over content, audience, and/or selection of contributing authors and editors for its publications that are supported by educational grants.
- Liaison between Remedica and supporting companies regarding independent publications will be on a scientific and medical basis.
- Remedica will pay due attention to local guidelines and regulations relating to the dissemination of non-promotional, scientific/educational information.
- All educational materials will contain a reference to support and funding.

- Any financial relationships between supporting companies and Remedica, faculty, authors, or academic/clinical editorial staff will be fully disclosed. These include, but are not limited to, research grants, consultancy fees, honoraria, and significant stock ownership.
- Inclusion of advertising materials will be guided by local guidelines and regulations in the territories where the publications are distributed. All advertising materials must comply with local guidelines and regulations. Notwithstanding such regulations, Remedica will ensure that any advertising is appropriate.
- Publications will avoid excessive use of trademarks and generally use generic names for any drug products mentioned.
- For any drug products or medical devices, Remedica agrees to take steps to ensure that the data will be objectively selected and presented, that both favorable and unfavorable information about the product will be fairly represented, and that there is balanced discussion of the prevailing body of scientific information and of reasonable, alternative treatment options.
- In any publication where there is a suggestion of superiority of one drug product over another, such statement will be supported by available scientific data.
- If unapproved uses of any product are discussed, the contributor must disclose that the product is not approved for the use under discussion.
- If there are any limitations on data or uncertainty regarding the results of these data, this information will be fully disclosed. Publications that include anecdotal data, interim analysis, or opinion will note the limitations of the data.
- Materials will be as up-to-date as possible, and should reflect appropriately the needs and interests of the audience.

### **Planning Process**

All Remedica journals and publications are planned, developed, and published to satisfy the ACCME's Essential Areas, and according to Remedica Good Publishing Practice (GPP – see below). Remedica is not ACCME accredited. When Remedica publications offer CME/CE, an accredited co-sponsor is responsible for assuring that the content and the processes used to generate the content are compliant with the ACCME's Essential Areas (or requirements of other recognized bodies for CE).

The steps outlined below describe:

- The planning process for the educational articles presented in each issue of each of Remedica's publications.
- How Remedica evaluates and assesses the educational needs that each article will address.
- How the purpose(s) and objective(s) for the activity are identified before the project is developed. These are then conveyed to the reader during their participation in the activity.

- The methods employed to ensure that the educational needs identified during the planning process are met by each manuscript commissioned.

For each publication, Remedica works with Editor(s)-in-Chief and/or an Editorial Advisory Board, highly qualified and experienced physicians practicing medicine in the sector in question. The process employed to develop educational content is as follows:

1. The Editor(s)-in-Chief and Editorial Advisory Board, working with Remedica, identify educational themes to be addressed, confirm the educational value of articles planned for inclusion, and identify the purpose and objective that each article will serve. At this stage, any educational articles suggested by the commercial supporter(s) are reviewed by the Editor(s)-in-Chief or Editorial Advisory Board, working with Remedica, for suitability. Those identified as suitable are included; those deemed unsuitable are rejected. At this stage, educational themes generated through feedback from physicians taking part in previous educational activities related to the journal are also reviewed for suitability. Again, those identified as suitable are included; those deemed unsuitable are rejected.
2. The Editor(s)-in-Chief and/or the Editorial Advisory Board, working with Remedica, identify and confirm suitability and impartiality of authors. The authors are experienced physicians from the sector in question who are well placed to illustrate and explain to a broad audience of physicians and allied healthcare professionals the educational themes identified.
3. The authors are approached by Remedica, are informed of the educational themes required and the purpose and objective of the activity, and are asked to prepare the preliminary manuscript.
4. On submission of preliminary manuscript, Remedica and the Editor(s)-in-Chief review content for scientific quality, objectivity and balance, conflict of interest, medical accuracy, and whether it meets the educational objectives for which it was designed. Members of the Editorial Advisory Board and/or an independent peer reviewer identified by Remedica also review the preliminary manuscript for scientific quality, objectivity and balance, conflict of interest, medical accuracy, and whether it meets the educational objectives for which it was designed. All comments are collated by Remedica, and returned to the author for consideration.
5. The final manuscript is prepared following comments generated during review of the preliminary manuscript. Submission of the final manuscript is accompanied by full disclosure from all contributing authors of any possible financial interest(s) in the manuscript. Remedica checks that all comments generated within the review process have been adequately addressed in the final manuscript. If they have not been addressed, the manuscript is returned to the author for further work.

6. On completion of the article, if CME/CE accreditation is required, it is submitted to the accredited sponsor for review to ensure that the above process has generated a balanced, objective manuscript that satisfies all ACCME Essential Areas. Any comments generated during this stage of the review will be returned to the author to be addressed. Once final sign-off has been received from the accredited sponsor, the content is developed into a print publication, published, and distributed.