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## **INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL PUBLICATION PROFESSIONALS, INC. (ISMPP)**

### **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **Introduction**

The International Society for Medical Publication Professionals, Inc. (ISMPP) is a non-profit, professional association dedicated to: advancing the practice of medical publication planning and development; supporting medical publication professionals; and, promoting ethical medical publication practices. The ISMPP Certified Medical Publication Professional (CMPP) Certification Program (Certification Program) credentials medical publication professionals who have met the professional standards established by the ISMPP Certification Board.

The Certification Program Code of Conduct (Code) establishes the core ethical standards for the professional behavior of CMPP applicants and certificants. The Code is designed to provide enforceable standards of conduct. Conduct matters related to this Code will be reviewed and processed consistent with the Certification Program Conduct Case Procedures.

#### **General Conduct Standards**

CMPP applicants and certificants provide quality, professional services in a manner that promotes integrity and transparency, and reflects positively on the profession, consistent with accepted ethical and legal standards.

CMPP applicants and certificants pledge and agree to: act with integrity and transparency; practice with fairness and honesty; act consistent with established standards of professional conduct; accept responsibility for their actions; continually seek to enhance their professional capabilities; and encourage others to act in an appropriate professional manner, consistent with all ISMPP certification standards and the conduct principles set forth below.

**I. Compliance with Professional Standards and Requirements Related to Medical Publications Practice**

CMPP applicants and certificants must comply with all conduct standards relating to medical publications practice. Specifically, CMPP applicants and certificants must:

- A. Support authors in planning, developing, and producing publications that report data accurately and completely, regardless of whether the data are positive or negative, in a fair and balanced manner, and without ambiguous or misleading information.
- B. Apply appropriate author selection standards and author practices by following accepted authorship criteria, including the Recommendations issued by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).
- C. Avoid engaging in any conduct that interferes with the author's responsibility to determine the content of his/her publication, article, or presentation.
- D. Advise authors on appropriate contribution, acknowledgement, and disclosure practices, and ensure that authors include the identity and role of all significant contributors to publications, articles, and presentations who do not meet authorship criteria.
- E. Accurately identify funding sources related to the clinical study, medical writing and/or editorial support, or other services provided; and disclose all real and potential conflicts of interest related to the publication, article, or presentation.
- F. Act consistent with relevant principles, guidelines, and position statements issued by well-recognized professional medical publication organizations, pharmaceutical and medical device industry regulatory bodies, and biomedical publishing organizations, including *current versions* of: Good Publication Practices (GPP) Guidelines; ICMJE Recommendations; and, Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors.
- G. Comply with all applicable local and national government laws and regulations related to the medical publications profession.
- H. Respect and not violate the intellectual property rights of others regarding all professional activities.

**II. Performance of Professional Publication Services and Activities**

CMPP applicants and certificants must perform all professional services in a responsible and appropriate manner. Specifically, CMPP applicants and certificants must:

- A. Be accountable and responsible for their professional actions and behaviors.
- B. Provide services in a competent manner, consistent with objective and appropriate professional judgment.
- C. Provide truthful and accurate representations concerning education, experience, qualifications, competency, and the performance of services related to publications.
- D. Provide publication support within the limitations of their professional ability. CMPP applicants or certificants are responsible for determining the limits of their professional abilities based on education, knowledge, skills, practical experience, and other relevant considerations.
- E. Provide professional services in a fair, accurate, and honest manner to employers, employees, clients, customers, contractors, investigators, authors, journal editors, and publishers.
- F. Provide truthful and accurate information concerning all professional services and affiliations.
- G. Properly use professional credentials, titles, and degrees.
- H. Avoid professional or business conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

### **III. Compliance with ISMPP Policies and Rules**

CMPP applicants and certificants must comply with all ISMPP organizational and Certification Program policies and rules. Specifically, CMPP applicants and certificants must:

- A. Comply with all ISMPP and Certification Program policies, procedures, and other organizational requirements, including confidentiality agreements.
- B. Provide accurate, complete, and truthful representations to the Certification Program concerning all certification and recertification information.
- C. Protect the confidentiality of all Certification Program examination information and materials and prevent unauthorized disclosures of CMPP examination information.
- D. Protect the security of all confidential ISMPP information, including organizational intellectual property, received as the result of their volunteer service to ISMPP.

- E. Cooperate with the Certification Program concerning conduct complaints and other conduct matters consistent with applicable policies and ISMPP requirements, including the submission of information related to a conduct review or investigation.

**IV. Avoidance and Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest and Appearance of Impropriety**

CMPP applicants and certificants must avoid situations in which conflicts of interest may affect, or may have the potential to affect, their professional judgment, or may give the appearance of impropriety related to professional activities. Specifically, CMPP applicants and certificants must:

- A. Disclose to employers, employees, clients, customers, contractors, investigators, authors, journal editors, and publishers any circumstance that could be reasonably construed as a real or potential conflict of interest, or could have an appearance of impropriety.
- B. Refrain from engaging in conduct that could cause a real or potential conflict of interest with an employer, employee, client, customer, contractor, investigator, author, journal editor, or publisher.
- C. Ensure that a real or potential conflict of interest does not influence professional judgment, and does not compromise the legitimate interests of an employer, employee, client, customer, contractor, investigator, author, journal editor, or publisher.
- D. Never offer or accept payments, gifts, or benefits that could be reasonably construed as being intended to influence professional judgment.

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN**