

Policy No: EP005
Issue Date: August 2011
Updated: May 2012
Review Date: August 2016

Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to set out the principles and procedures for accepting commercial support for eviDent.

Scope

2. This policy applies to all eviDent Members.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definition is used:

3. **Commercial Support:** a contribution of funds or goods from a for-profit organisation, or an organisation that might gain financially from an association with eviDent.

Guidelines

4. eviDent will only accept commercial support if:
 - a. funds or goods may be used by eviDent for unconditional/ unrestricted use (including no exclusions of other supporters)
 - b. independence of researchers and research can be maintained
 - c. acceptance avoids conflicts that impair or give the appearance of impairing the independence of the project's findings
 - d. the organisation providing commercial support does not gain financially as a direct result of its association with eviDent
5. eviDent projects will only accept commercial support if eviDent retains control over the research protocol, conduct of research, research data, analysis and interpretation of results, intellectual property and the presentation of research findings. The funding body will have no right to hinder, withhold or prevent the publication of results.
6. eviDent investigators wishing to apply for commercial support must seek prior approval from the eviDent DPBRN Committee.
7. eviDent investigators, who receive commercial support for eviDent projects, will disclose and acknowledge the funding source on all publications and presentations by using the following wording:
'This project was supported by <name of funding organisation>. The views expressed herein are those of the project team and are not necessarily those of the <name of funding organisation>.'
8. Commercial support may be acknowledged by the funding organisation in written communication provided prior approval has been obtained from the eviDent DPBRN Chair(s).
9. eviDent will consider project proposals from those wishing to provide commercial support to eviDent, providing that the above guidelines are adhered to if the project proposal is approved.

Review

10. This policy will be reviewed and updated within three (3) years of the issue date, or earlier if any changes indicate a need for a review.