



Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy Summary: SPOR Evidence Alliance

Box 1. Nature of Conflicts¹

A **real COI** arises when a member has a bias, or a personal, occupational, professional or financial relationship(s) or interests that affect or compromise, or appear to affect or compromise, their work with the Alliance or with a specific project.

A **potential COI** arises when a member does not currently have a **real COI** but can foresee that their private, personal, or professional relationship(s) or interests may have the potential to influence their work with the Alliance (or with a specific project) in the future.

A **perceived (or apparent) COI** may exist when a reasonable, well-informed person believes that an Alliance member has a **real or potential COI** even though there is neither a **real nor a potential COI**.

Available COI Documents:

- [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy](#) (*long version*)
- [Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form](#) (*paper version*)

Contact:

SPOR Evidence Alliance at
SPOREA@smh.ca

Introduction

The SPOR Evidence Alliance (the Alliance) is a partnership between researchers, trainees, patients, healthcare providers, and policy makers from across Canada who are committed to contributing to a rapid learning health system. The mission of the Alliance is to support the use of reliable and high-quality evidence in the decision-making process.

Disclosure of COI

Alliance members are required to complete the following types of COI disclosures based on their activity within the network:

- **Annual declaration:** all Alliance members must declare this on an annual basis. New members must submit this form upon becoming a member.
- **Project-specific declaration:** all project investigators and research team members must submit a COI form prior to participating in an Alliance project.
- **Ad hoc declaration:** All members must update their declarations if their COI changes.

Management of COI

COI forms to be completed using the **online COI Disclosure Form**.

If a significant COI exists that cannot be resolved, the Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI) and Executive Committee (EC) may take the following action:

1. allow participation, but with a COI management plan in place with periodic check-ins, or
2. withdraw participation from an Alliance activity.

The NPI and EC may launch an investigation into a member suspected of withholding COI information, or failing to adhere to a COI management plan. If the member is found to be in contempt, the NPI and EC may: (1) Prohibit future participation (2) Notify project or activity leaders (3) Notify relevant publishers if any applicable work was published without appropriate declarations. The Alliance member always can exercise their right to appeal the results of an investigation.



¹Adapted from <https://www.cadth.ca/about-cadth/how-are-we-doing/conflict-interest>