



## Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy Summary: SPOR Evidence Alliance

### Box 1. Nature of Conflicts<sup>1</sup>

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 Evidence 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 Evidence 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 Evidence Alliance member has a *real or potential COI* even though there is neither a *real nor a potential COI*.

### Read the full policy:

- [Conflicts of Interest Disclosure Policy](#) (long version)

### Contact:

SPOR Evidence Alliance at  
[SPOREA@smh.ca](mailto:SPOREA@smh.ca)

### Introduction

The SPOR Evidence 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 Evidence Alliance is to support the use of reliable and high-quality evidence in the decision-making process.

### Disclosure of COI

Evidence Alliance members are required to complete the following types of conflicts of interest (COI) disclosures based on their activity within the network:

- **Annual declaration:** all Evidence 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 Evidence Alliance project.
- **Ad hoc declaration:** All members must update their declarations if their COI changes.

### Management of COI

If a significant COI exists that cannot be resolved, the Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI) and the 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 Evidence 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 Evidence Alliance member always can exercise their right to appeal the results of an investigation.



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