



"Industry Partner" means, with respect to a specific educational activity submitted for CBIC IPU approval, any commercial entity — including manufacturers, distributors, vendors, or suppliers of products, devices, equipment, pharmaceuticals, or services relevant to infection prevention and control — that:

- (a) sponsors, funds, or otherwise provides financial support for that specific activity;
- (b) develops, commissions, or directs the content of that specific activity; or
- (c) has its product(s) or service(s) featured, promoted, or otherwise given commercial emphasis within that specific activity,

regardless of whether the activity is presented by an employee, contractor, consultant, or independent presenter on the entity's behalf.

An individual is not an Industry Partner solely because they:

- own or operate a consulting, coaching, research, or writing business;
- have current or past paid engagements with one or more commercial vendors, on matters unrelated to the activity submitted; or
- are a member of, or collaborate with, APIC or other professional associations.

Such an individual is treated as an Industry Partner **only for a specific submitted activity** where that activity itself meets criteria (a), (b), or (c) above. An independently developed and independently presented activity — with no vendor sponsorship, no vendor-directed content, and no product/service promotion — is evaluated under CBIC's standard "purely scientific" criteria applicable to all IPU submissions, not the additional accreditation-through-industry-partner requirement.

Receipt of industry funding, standing alone, is not a basis for denying IPU approval. An activity that meets criteria (a), (b), or (c) above is not disqualified from IPU approval on that basis alone; it is simply evaluated under the Industry Partner approval pathway, which requires that the industry partner or the independent continuing education provider of record hold current accreditation or formal authorization to award CEU, CNE, CME, or another CBIC-recognized equivalent, and that the activity remain purely scientific with no commercial promotion. An activity satisfying these requirements is eligible for IPU approval regardless of its funding source.

Industry sponsorship of an event is permitted, provided the educational provider retains full control. The sponsor may not select the speaker, determine the topic,

develop or review the materials, or otherwise influence the educational content. APIC guidance similarly states that industry support should enhance—not influence—education and that chapters retain control over speaker selection and content.

Second, for CBIC IPU eligibility, the speaker cannot be employed by an Industry Partner. Employment by a commercial vendor creates a direct financial relationship and potential conflict of interest. APIC's COI policy recognizes employment and compensation relationships as potential financial or material interests.

An independent IP who owns a consulting, coaching, research, or writing business would not automatically be considered an Industry Partner. However, a speaker who is currently employed by an Industry Partner would not be eligible to provide the IPU-approved educational content.

So, in short: industry may sponsor the event, but it may not control the education, select the speaker, or provide the speaker through its own employees.

This revision aligns CBIC's IPU approval process with established best practice among peer healthcare credentialing bodies.