

## **VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK PRINCIPLES FOR ACCEPTING COMMERCIAL SUPPORT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**The mission of Vermont Oxford Network is to improve the quality and safety of medical care for newborn infants and their families through a coordinated program of data-driven quality improvement, education, and research. Through these programs we strive to promote health care that is family centered, safe, effective, efficient, timely, equitable, and socially and environmentally responsible.**

### **GUIDELINES FOR COMMERCIAL SUPPORT**

Vermont Oxford Network's effectiveness and credibility in advancing medical knowledge through research, education, and quality improvement depends on maintaining an independent position with respect to commercial products and services. Vermont Oxford Network has established the following guidelines, which apply to the acceptance of "Commercial Support," that is external funds from for-profit corporations selling goods or services related to health care, or who otherwise stand to gain financially from an association with Vermont Oxford Network and access to its members.

#### **Guidelines for the Acceptance of Commercial Support and Other External Support:**

1. Vermont Oxford Network will avoid conflicts that impair or give the appearance of impairing the ability of Vermont Oxford Network, its Directors, Officers or program participants to make informed and objective decisions.
2. Directors and Officers of Vermont Oxford Network will not engage in consulting for for-profit corporations selling goods or services related to health care or who otherwise stand to gain financially from an association with Vermont Oxford Network and access to its members.
3. Directors and Officers of Vermont Oxford Network will not accept fees, gifts or other payments from for-profit corporations selling goods or services related to health care, or who otherwise stand to gain financially from an association with Vermont Oxford Network and access to its members.
4. Vermont Oxford Network will not accept Commercial Support for the Annual Meeting or Annual Quality Congress, or for other educational meetings or educational programs.
5. Vermont Oxford Network will not transfer or sell data with individual infant or hospital identifiers.
6. Vermont Oxford Network will not sell, share or make available email or postal addresses of its members, in whatever manner such information is collected, without prior permission from the member.

7. Vermont Oxford Network may accept Commercial Support for unrestricted use for specific programs that are consistent with our mission. If Vermont Oxford Network chooses to accept Commercial Support that includes the production of reports or analyses of Network databases or registries, the confidentiality of patients, providers, and institutions will be strictly protected.

8. Vermont Oxford Network may accept Commercial Support for research under the following conditions:

a. The research is relevant to the mission of Vermont Oxford Network and is judged to be of scientific merit. Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit by a committee appointed by the Chief Executive and Scientific Officer. The Chief Executive and Scientific Officer will make the final decision and may choose to consult with the Board of Directors.

b. Vermont Oxford Network retains control of the selection of all personnel for the research.

c. Vermont Oxford Network retains control of the research design and development of the protocol and analytic plan.

d. Vermont Oxford Network retains control of the conduct of the research including data collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of results.

e. Vermont Oxford Network retains control over the preparation of all manuscripts, reports, and presentations of the research methods and results. Decisions about authorship will adhere to the guidelines for authorship developed by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

f. Vermont Oxford Network retains the right to publish all results or content of the research at its discretion.

g. Vermont Oxford reserves rights to the intellectual properties resulting from the project unless otherwise agreed upon in advance.

h. If eligible for trial registration the research will be registered with the appropriate public trials registry.

9. Vermont Oxford Network may accept Commercial Support for a special fund established to promote the improvement of medical care in low resource countries and to support the honoraria and other expenses related to the fellows in Global Health selected by Vermont Oxford Network.

10. Vermont Oxford Network will acknowledge any activities that are partially or completely financed by Commercial Support. Acknowledgment will be made by use of appropriate wording, logos, or both, in materials, newsletters, websites, publications, reports of project results, press releases, and other related goods as appropriate.

11. Vermont Oxford Network permits acknowledgement of support to Vermont Oxford Network in company communications but requires any use of the Vermont Oxford Network name and/or logo be approved by Vermont Oxford Network.

This policy will be reviewed at intervals to be decided by the Board of Directors of Vermont Oxford Network.