

ADA CERP Eligibility Criteria Revised

May 7, 2019

At its meeting April 25-26, 2019, the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition approved revisions to the CERP Eligibility Criteria. Effective July 1, 2023, the eligibility requirements include a new criterion stating:

Commercial interests are not eligible for recognition. The CERP Glossary defines “commercial interest” as follows:

Commercial Interest: (1) An individual or entity that produces, markets, resells or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients, or (2) an individual or entity that is owned or controlled by an individual or entity that produces, markets, resells, or distributes health care goods or services consumed by, or used on, patients. Providing clinical services directly to or for patients (e.g., a dental practice, dental lab, or diagnostic lab) does not, by itself, make an individual or entity a commercial interest.

The Commission’s action was the result of a deliberative process conducted over several years, with input from the communities of interest. The changes are intended to reduce the opportunity for commercial bias to impact continuing dental education, align CERP continuing dental education standards with those of other healthcare professions, and with U.S. Food and Drug Administration guidance regarding separation of marketing and education activities, and support the public’s trust in the profession.

In a related action also effective July 1, 2023, the Commission approved revisions to the CERP Joint Providership Policy to state that commercial interests are not eligible to be joint providers. The revised [Eligibility Criteria](#) and [Joint Providership Policy](#) are published in the [CERP Recognition Standards and Procedures](#), April 2019, available at ADA.org/CCEPR.

The revised Eligibility Criteria and Joint Providership Policy do not prohibit CERP recognized providers from accepting support from commercial interests, as long as any such commercial support is managed in accordance with CERP Standard V, and the commercial interest does not have a role in selecting or influencing CE content or instructors (V.1).

Implementation of the new CERP Eligibility Criteria and Joint Providership requirements will occur at the end of a four-year period to permit currently recognized providers that are commercial interests to adjust to the change.

In the coming months, the Commission plans to publish an eligibility questionnaire and other materials to assist in determining eligibility for CERP recognition, including a Pre-Application form that will be required of all providers applying for CERP recognition.

The mission of the ADA’s Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition is to serve the public and the dental profession by developing and implementing standards that promote excellence in continuing dental education to support professional competence and continuous improvement of patient care.

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