

**DECATUR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD**

SUBJECT: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

STANDARD: PATIENT RIGHTS AND ORGANIZATION ETHICS **EFFECTIVE:** 1/98; 4/08

POLICY:

In the environment of research, openness and honesty are indicators of integrity and responsibility, characteristics that promote quality research and can only strengthen the research process. Therefore, conflicts of interest should be eliminated when possible and effectively managed and disclosed when they cannot be eliminated.

Specific Policies

Definition of a COI

A conflict of interest is defined as a close personal or professional association with the submitted Investigator(s); direct participation in the research (e.g., protocol development); or any significant financial interest in the sponsoring company defined as (example, \$10,000 or 5% ownership).

Questions regarding COI may be referred to the Institutional Official. The Institutional Official has the authority to determine when a COI exists as defined by institutional policy and to impose and enforce disciplinary action in the event that a COI is not disclosed.

Disclosure and Documentation of Financial Interest and COI

No regular or alternate member may participate in the initial or continuing review of any research project in which the member has a conflict of interest, except to provide information as requested.

It is the responsibility of each voting member or alternate member of the IRB to disclose any COI in a study submitted to the IRB and recuse himself or herself from deliberations and voting.

The procedures for recusal of IRB Members, including the Co-Chairpersons, from deliberating/voting on all protocols for which there is a potential or actual financial conflict of interest are detailed in SOP IRB Meeting Administration.

Education and Training in COI

IRB Members and the IRB Administrator are required to participate in education and training activities related to financial conflict of interest issues.

APPLICABLE TO:

These policies and procedures apply to all IRB Members and the IRB Administrator at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The Institutional Official is responsible for articulating and enforcing the conflict of interest policy at Decatur Memorial Hospital.

The IRB Co-Chairpersons are responsible for identifying COI disclosures before beginning every IRB meeting.

The IRB Administrator is responsible for monitoring the COI status and disclosures of IRB Members.

The IRB Administrator is responsible for documenting all COI disclosures in IRB meeting minutes.

APPROVED BY:

President and CEO