

ASCO COI System FAQ's

ASCO Disclosure Management System

1. What is the ASCO Conflict of Interest Disclosure Management System (coi.asco.org)?

ASCO uses a database to record and store individual disclosures, known as the ASCO COI Disclosure Management System. This system serves as a centralized place for volunteers, members, and participants in ASCO activities to manage their disclosures of financial relationships with for-profit health care Companies as well as other relationships that may impact their ASCO activities. If a disclosure established in the Disclosure Management System is current (within two years), it will be used for all ASCO activities that require conflict of interest disclosure, including volunteer service, meeting faculty roles, abstract submission, *JCO* Journals manuscript submissions, editorial roles, etc.

2. What is the purpose of the Disclosure Management System?

The purpose of the Disclosure Management System is to provide participants in ASCO activities with a place to keep their conflict-of-interest disclosures “on file” to be used for multiple activities. The Disclosure Management System is designed for convenience, so disclosures can be accurately completed and stored electronically. The Disclosure Management System requests “general” or universal disclosure of all relationships with for-profit health care companies, regardless of the subject matter. General disclosure allows participants in ASCO activities to disclose once, instead of filling out multiple disclosures for each ASCO activity. In addition to providing convenience for the discloser, the system improves transparency across activities. and leaves the determination of relevance up to the audience rather than the discloser themselves.

3. If I'm not an ASCO member, can I establish a disclosure in the Disclosure Management System?

Yes. If you have an account on [ASCO.org](https://www.asco.org), you can establish a disclosure in the Disclosure Management System. All users of the Disclosure Management System must access it through their [ASCO.org](https://www.asco.org) account. If you do not already have an ASCO account, you must create an account on www.asco.org. Once you are logged in, select “COI Management” to establish a disclosure in the system. If you already have an account but need assistance logging in, please contact ASCO Customer Service at customerservice@asco.org or at **888-282-2552** for assistance. If you have any specific questions about ASCO's COI Management System, you may contact coi@asco.org.

4. What relationships do I have to disclose in the Disclosure Management System?

The disclosure questions in the Disclosure Management System concern your financial relationships with healthcare companies that could be perceived to influence your work or your professional activities. You will be prompted to answer questions about your relationships in 11 required categories and offered two optional categories for further disclosure. Disclose interactions and relationships with any company that could be considered broadly relevant to your work in oncology, regardless of the subject matter. You must report relationships with companies that you or your immediate family member(s) hold or have held in the past two years.

ASCO uses the definition of a “Company” as defined in the Council of Medical Specialty Societies Code as “a for-profit entity that develops, produces, markets, or distributes drugs, devices, services, or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage, and alleviate health conditions. The definition is not intended to include non-profit entities, entities outside of the healthcare sector, or entities through which physicians provide clinical services directly to patients.”

Additionally, there are two optional categories where disclosers can provide more information if they wish: (1) any relationship that is Uncompensated but otherwise meets the disclosure criteria; and (2) an option to include one’s personal link to the US federal Open Payments database.

5. What is the Open Payments database? Why should I include my Open Payments link?

Open Payments is a US government database of industry reported payments and other transfers of value made to US-licensed physicians. Industry reported information in the Open Payments database is available to the public, and some individuals choose to provide links to their personal Open Payments page. ASCO publishes the personal links of those who choose to provide the links. ASCO publishes this information for convenience only and does not warrant, or speak to, the accuracy of Open Payments information. Because Open Payments information is reported by drug and device companies, you may be unaware of payments that have been posted in your name. While providing your link is optional, ASCO highly encourages that all disclosers consult their Open Payments record to make any necessary updates to their ASCO disclosure. Providing your Open Payments link does not replace your responsibility to complete the other questions in ASCO’s disclosure form.

6. Should I disclose financial relationships with government or non-profit entities?

You may disclose these relationships, but you are not required to. When disclosing relationships in accordance with the ASCO Policy for Relationships with Companies, required disclosure is limited to for-profit health care companies. This does not include government agencies, charitable foundations, academic institutions and other non-profit entities.

7. What if I want to disclose an oncology-related financial relationship that does not fit into any of the disclosure categories?

The “Other Relationship” category gives you the opportunity to report other relationships or activities that could be perceived to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, your work or your professional activities.

8. Who can view my disclosure?

Disclosures are not available to the public, unless you set your disclosure to “Public” using the Share Disclosure feature on the COI Dashboard that appears when you log in to the Disclosure Management System. Disclosure reports are published with manuscripts and abstracts and can be seen by anyone with access to the journal or abstract and are viewable by anyone with the link. Review of disclosures for volunteer activities will depend upon the activity and are always available to ASCO staff. If you have questions, please contact ASCO staff or email coi@asco.org.

9. I can't remember the last time I updated my disclosure. How can I tell?

The date of when you last updated your disclosure is displayed directly on the dashboard and at the top of your disclosure report. Depending on the ASCO activity in question that you are participating in, ASCO Staff may contact you and request that you update your disclosure.

10. I filled in all the categories where I have a relationship, but the disclosure appears incomplete.

You must select "NO" for the mandatory categories where you have nothing to disclose. You must click Confirm at the bottom of the disclosure to save your changes.

11. Do I have to use the disclosure in the Disclosure Management System (coi.asco.org) for all ASCO activities? Can I opt not to?

Disclosers are strongly encouraged to use the Disclosure Management System to maintain consistency and accuracy of disclosure. However, abstract authors can opt not to use the Disclosure Management System for meeting abstract submissions and disclose directly within the submission website. Any information entered by an individual into the abstract submission will not be transferred back to the Disclosure Management System. In the interest of preventing duplicate accounts, which can result in inaccurate disclosures, ASCO strongly encourages disclosers to use the same email address for all disclosures.

12. Is additional assistance available if I have any questions about coi.asco.org?

Yes, please contact coi@asco.org with any questions or concerns regarding the Disclosure Management System.

13. What is the definition of a healthcare company?

ASCO uses the definition of a "Company" as defined in the Council of Medical Specialty Societies Code as "a for-profit entity that develops, produces, markets, or distributes drugs, devices, services, or therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage, and alleviate health conditions. The definition is not intended to include non-profit entities, entities outside of the healthcare sector, or entities through which physicians provide clinical services directly to patients."

14. How often do I have to update my disclosure?

Disclosures should be updated whenever an individual involved in an ASCO activity—whether its journal manuscript submissions, meeting abstracts, committee service, presentations etc.—has a financial relationship with a Company. The ASCO COI Policy requires disclosure of financial relationships with for-profit health care Companies within two years of the activity.