Approval of Sponsored Satellite Symposia in the UK for External CPD Credits

Sponsored Satellite Symposia in the UK take place generally in association with major meetings of National Specialist Societies. In common with many other educational events, they are sponsored by a commercial company, usually one that is involved in healthcare. There is therefore a risk that the educational content of these Symposia may be biased in favour of the commercial interests of the sponsor.

The following criteria must therefore be met before a Sponsored Satellite Symposium will be considered for CPD approval.

- The speakers and topics of Satellite Symposia must have been determined (or formally agreed) by the Specialist Society that is responsible for the main scientific meeting. A written statement to this effect must be received by the Federation before CPD approval will be considered. 1*
- The Satellite must not be scheduled so that it overlaps with any element of the main scientific meeting.
- Commercial advertising or other promotional activity must not be placed within the lecture room or hall in which the educational activity of the Satellite takes place. However, in common with the rules applied to the main meeting, it is legitimate for a sponsoring organisation to have a presence in the main body of the meeting venue.
- The total number of CPD credits obtainable by delegates in any one day is limited to eight. Credits for approved Satellites can be claimed as part of this total, but not in addition to it.
- The standard commercial fee will be charged for consideration of approval of each Satellite Symposium.

If approval is given, a statement to this effect may be included in the programme of the Satellite Symposium. This must always include the following: “Delegates are reminded that a maximum of eight External CPD points may be counted for educational activity on any one day”

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*1 This statement may be sent by the Scientific Committee of the Specialist Society, other educational body responsible for the main meeting, or by a conference organiser acting on their behalf. It can be sent either at the time of application for approval of the main meeting, or subsequently. Confirmation for all relevant Satellite Symposia may be included in one statement.