

Declaration of Competing Interest

To be completed by all authors on submission

Publication Title: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Introduction

A competing interest exists when professional judgement concerning a primary interest (such as patients' welfare or the validity of the research) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as a financial gain or personal rivalry). It may also arise when authors have a financial or other interest that may influence - probably without their knowledge – their interpretation of their own results or those others.

We believe that to make the best decision on how to deal with a submission/manuscript we should know about any such competing interest which authors may have. We are not aiming to eradicate competing interests, since they are almost inevitable. We will not reject your paper simply because you and/or your co-authors may have a competing interest, but we will make a declaration on whether or not you have competing interest.

You and each of your co-authors must answer questions 1 to 5, and then complete each section A or B.

1. Have you in the past five years accepted the following from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study or the conclusions of your review, editorial or letter:

Reimbursement for attending a symposium?	Y/N
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A fee for organising education?	Y/N
Funds for research?	Y/N
Fund for a member of staff?	Y/N
Fees for consulting?	Y/N

2. Have in the past five years been employed by an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study or the conclusions of your review, editorial or letter? Y/N

3. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the results of your study or the conclusions of your review, editorial or letter? Y/N

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5. Although we are restricting ourselves to asking directly about competing financial interests, you may wish to disclose another form of competing interest that would embarrass you if it became generally known after publication. The following list gives some examples:

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- A deep personal or religious conviction that may have affected what you wrote and of which readers should be aware when reading your paper

Do you have any such non-financial competing interests? Y/N

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Declaration of Competing interests: RS has been reimbursed by 'X' Products, the manufacturer of 'Y', for attending several conferences. TD has been paid by 'X' productions for running educational programmes and her research registrar has also been paid by this Company. JS has shares in 'X' Products.

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B. If you did not answer 'yes' to any questions 1 to 5, please add the following statement to the text of your manuscript immediately before the references:

Declaration of competing interests: Nothing to declare.

ALL AUTHORS TO COMPLETE THIS SECTION:

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SIGNATURE(S): (All authors to sign)

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