



## **Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs) for educational programs funded or sponsored by commercial entities**

At its March 2009 meeting, the IBLCE Board of Directors deferred a final decision about awarding CERPs to educational programs offered by Medela, Inc. until after it had an opportunity to review the larger issue of awarding CERPs to education funded or sponsored by commercial entities. At that time it established a special taskforce to review this matter and report back to the Board with its recommendations. As a result of this review, IBLCE has resolved that, as of June 30, 2009, IBLCE will no longer accept CERP applications from Medela.

Furthermore, in response to the larger issue of commercial funding or sponsorship of professional education, the IBLCE Board is committed to removing any possible perception of influence by industry on professional education for its certificants. Therefore, as a first step toward this goal, the Board has resolved that:

- As of June 30, 2009, IBLCE will no longer accept CERP applications for education funded or sponsored by companies that manufacture or distribute products that fall within the scope of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes<sup>1</sup>.
- For the purposes of IBCLC recertification, IBLCE will accept CERPs awarded to educational programs funded or sponsored by such companies provided that the education is completed by no later than December 31, 2009.
- As of January 1, 2010, all such companies are prohibited from issuing CERP certificates to participants in their educational programs.

Consistent with the most recent thinking<sup>2</sup> on the topic, in 2010 IBLCE will publish policies, definitions and guidelines regarding commercial funding or sponsorship of professional education for its certificants. IBLCE will continue to consider commercial sponsorship or funding of professional education on a case-by-case basis, consistent with IBLCE's determination to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest.

These decisions are in the best interests of the lactation consultant profession, the public IBCLCs serve, and society at large. We thank our certificants, applicants and sister organizations for their patience while we carefully considered this issue.

The IBLCE Board of Directors  
June 23, 2009

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/code\\_english.pdf](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/code_english.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Examples of relevant references include:

- Brennan TA, Rothman DJ, Blank L, et al. Health industry practices that create conflicts of interest. *JAMA*. 2006;295(4):429-433.
- *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. What's wrong with CME? 2004;170(6):917.
- Rothman DJ, McDonald WJ, Berkowitz CD, et al. Professional medical associations and their relationships with industry. *JAMA*. 2009;301(13):1367-1372.
- International Council of Ophthalmology. Standards for commercial support. <http://www.icoph.org/ed/edcme.html#1>
- Sandal J. No such thing as a free lunch. *Midwifery*. 2008; 24(2):123-125.
- World Medical Association Statement Concerning the Relationship Between Physicians and Commercial Enterprises. Approved 2004. <http://www.wma.net/e/policy/r2.htm>