UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

UAMS INDUSTRY INTERACTION POLICY

IS IT GHOSTWRITING?

A Decision Guide for UAMS Employees

Integrity today.
A healthier tomorrow.

START

Are you authoring, co-authoring, reviewing, or commenting on a manuscript, publication, presentation, or other scholarly work involving an outside entity?

1 Did you make a substantial intellectual contribution?

- No → **POTENTIAL GHOSTWRITING CONCERN**: Insufficient intellectual contribution may indicate a ghostwriting concern.
- Yes →

2 Was the content written primarily by someone else?

- Yes → **POTENTIAL GHOSTWRITING CONCERN**: Third-party authorship may indicate a ghostwriting concern.
- No →

3 Will all substantial contributors be appropriately credited?

- No → **PROHIBITED GHOSTWRITING**: Failure to properly credit contributors is a key indicator of ghostwriting and is prohibited under UAMS policy.
- Yes →

4 Do you control review, revision, and final approval?

- No → **PROHIBITED GHOSTWRITING**: **Lack of editorial control is a key indicator of ghostwriting.**
- Yes →

5 Are you lending your name or affiliation to content you did not meaningfully create or control?

- Yes → **PROHIBITED GHOSTWRITING**: Using your name, credentials, or UAMS affiliation to endorse content you did not meaningfully create or control is prohibited under UAMS policy.
- No →

6 Have all required relationships, funding sources, and editorial assistance been disclosed?

- No → **DISCLOSURE REQUIRED**: Do not participate until all required disclosures have been completed and any required reviews accordance with UAMS policy.
- Yes → **GENERALLY PERMISSIBLE**: The activity may be permissible if authorship, editorial control, and disclosure requirements are satisfied.

AUTHORSHIP INVOLVES:

- Substantial contributions to conception and design
- Acquisition of data or analysis and interpretation of data
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content
- Final approval of the version to be published
- Accountability for content
- Transparent disclosure
- Appropriate acknowledgment of all contributors

GHOSTWRITING INVOLVES:

Hidden or unacknowledged writers

- Honorary or guest authorship
- Industry-controlled content
- Limited or no editorial control
- Use of credentials for marketing purposes
- Incomplete or missing disclosures
- Company-prepared manuscripts, slides, or presentations
- Request to "just review and sign off"
- Marketing or publication strategy developed before your involvement

COMMON RED FLAGS:

- Manuscript already completed before your involvement
- Request to "just review and sign off"
- Company-selected conclusions
- Inability to edit or modify content
- Unacknowledged editorial assistance
- Limited access to underlying data
- Use of your name or affiliation for marketing
- Pressure to publish quickly

QUESTIONS?

Contact the UAMS Conflict of Interest Office.

conflictofinterest@uams.edu

Refer to UAMS Administrative Guide 4.4.12 (Industry Interaction Policy) for complete details.
This is a summary. Please refer to the full policy for complete requirements.

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