Policy on Content Validity and Value

1.0 PURPOSE
To establish criteria, policy, and process of implementation for the validation of the clinical content of CME activities in accordance with ACCME Policy and Value Statement:

*All the recommendations involving clinical medicine in a CME activity must be based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients.*

2.0 POLICY

2.1 Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s & Roosevelt Hospitals (BIMC & SLRHC) must review the planned content of a CME activity and demonstrate in documentation the base of evidence that any recommendations, treatments, and manners of practicing medicine promulgated in CME activities are efficacious in the care of patients. These “values”, taken from the ACCME Value Statements should be used in planning CME activities.

2.1.1 Data must be based on “evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine”

2.1.2 Materials used in CME must “conform to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis”.

2.1.3 Activities are not eligible for certification if they:

   (1) promote “recommendations, treatment, or manners of practicing medicine that are not within the definition of CME or are (2) known to have risks or dangers that outweigh the benefits or are (3) known to be ineffective in the treatment of patients.”

2.2 Definition of CME – Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke’s & Roosevelt Hospitals adopts the following ACCME Definition of CME:

   “Continuing Medical Education (CME) is a process of learning that serves to maintain, develop, or increase the knowledge, skills, professional performance, and relationships that physicians use in the care of patients. Learning activities that respond to a physician’s non-professional educational need or interest, such as personal financial planning or appreciation of literature or music for example, are not CME.”
3.0 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Faculty will be advised of content requirements in their faculty letters.

3.2 The course chair will be tasked with the responsibility of providing review and certification of each presentation in a CME activity under his or her direction unless he/she has a conflict of interest. In the event the course chair has a conflict, the role of review will fall to an independent reviewer. It will be up to the course chair to solicit an independent reviewer for the activity.

3.2.1 The Independent Reviewer is not be involved in the planning of this CME Activity and cannot have a relationship with any Corporate Entity supporting the CME activity.

3.2.2 A Clinical Content Review and Validation Form will be completed and signed that documents the source of evidence that confirms validity. This will assure the Department of CME that the activity materials are fair, balanced and free of bias toward the commercial supporter(s) of the activity or manufacturers of products discussed in the activity. The reviewer will be asked to review patient treatment recommendations to assure that they represent a standard of practice within the profession in the United States and to review any studies cited in the materials upon which recommendations are made to assure that those studies are scientifically objective and conform to research principles generally accepted by the scientific community.

3.2.3 The Director of CME will give final approval for the activity that the content is deemed valid and within the criteria as stated in this policy.

3.2.4 Evidence of valid content will be placed in the activity files under Planning