

**From:** MaryMoon Allison

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**To:** MaryMoon Allison

**Cc:** Jeanne Floyd; Debra Janikowski; Barbara Smith; 'Cheryl Schmidt'; Christine Waltzberg; Diana Swihart; Eileen Robinson; Kathleen Burke, PhD, RN; Susan Bakewell, RN, MS, BC; Tany Whitehead (whiteheadt@umkc.edu); 'Wanda Douglas'

**Subject:** 'comping' speakers

It has come to our attention that there is some additional learning that needs to take place related to the Standards of Commercial Support. In the past, a common 'perk' provided to conference speakers was to 'comp' their registration. Often the funds received (commercial support) were used to fund this action.

Standard 3.10 of the Standards for Commercial Support (page 84 in the manual) states, "If teachers or authors are listed on the agenda as facilitating or conducting a presentation or session, but participate in the remainder of an educational event as a learner, their expenses can be reimbursed and honoraria can be paid for their teach or author role only." This would mean their role as a learner cannot be paid for.

Standard 3.8 of the Standard for Commercial Support (page 83 in the manual) states, "The provider, the co-provider, or designated educational partner must pay directly any teacher or author honoraria or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses in compliance with the provider's written policies and procedures." So, you can pay the speaker an honoraria. The honoraria would be determined by you and agreed upon by the speaker. Maybe the honoraria would be high enough that the speaker could then pay a registration for the conference and attend as a learner (except for the time frame when s/he is teaching). The amount of the honoraria is up to you.

MaryMoon Allison, MHSE, BSN, RN, CAE  
Director, Accreditation Program  
American Nurses Credentialing Center  
301-628-5261

*"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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