

Lancet Countdown Conflict of Interest Policy

This policy ensures transparency and integrity in the development, selection, and funding of indicators within the Lancet Countdown.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Lancet Countdown collaborators involved in submitting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) or full proposals, reviewing applications, or participating in decision-making (e.g. WGSG, ASC).

1. Definition of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest arises when personal, professional, or financial interests could compromise, or appear to compromise, an individual's impartiality in the indicator development or academic process. This includes:

- Actual: Direct involvement with a proposal under review
- Potential: Future collaborations or funding relationships
- Perceived: Appearances of bias due to affiliations with a particular applicant or prior work

2. Disclosure Requirements

All applicants and collaborators must disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in line with the following

- At the time of proposal submission (EOI or full proposal)
- By reviewers and committee members prior to reviewing any application
- By ASC members during final selection

Disclosures should include institutional affiliations, funding relationships, and any prior academic involvement with proposed indicators.

3. Management of Conflicts

Upon disclosure, the Secretariat will assess the conflict and determine appropriate actions:

- Removal from specific reviews or decisions

- Reassignment of proposals to other reviewers
- Where conflicts cannot be adequately managed, individuals may be excluded from the process.

4. Governance and Oversight

The Lancet Countdown Secretariat and Academic Steering Committee are responsible for:

- Maintaining a register of declared interests
- Ensuring fair and consistent application of the policy
- Reviewing conflict management plans annually

5. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated to reflect changes in governance, funding mechanisms, and best practices.