



Statement from the Board regarding its decision to resume approval of CERPs for educational sessions funded or sponsored by Medela

The IBLCE Board of Directors is concerned that its desire to look, in depth, at the entire issue of approving CERPs for education funded or sponsored by *any* commercial vendor has been lost in the concurrent decision to permit CERPs to be awarded, *for the time being*, to educational sessions funded or sponsored by Medela, Inc.

Recently, Medela's marketing practices have been deemed not to be in compliance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. As noted in the IBLCE statement dated March 30 http://www.iblce.org/documentsNEW/Medela_publicStatement_03.30.pdf, IBLCE continues to monitor Medela's marketing practices. The Board has been weighing the information about Medela's marketing practices as judiciously and quickly as possible and is attempting to be clear and measured in its response.

IBLCE has an over-all duty, under its by-laws and CERPs provider requirements, to support the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and all subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions. Many programs that were under review for CERPs approval and many that are already planned include programs sponsored or funded by Medela. Due to the financial ramifications for many individual IBCLCs and continuing education providers, the IBLCE Board could not make a final decision on this issue without more extensive review and created a task force at the March Board meeting for this purpose.

IBLCE has communicated its intent to the ILCA Board of Directors and welcomes input on the issue of commercial sponsorship of CERPs as it continues to review this issue.

April 7, 2009