

POLICY FOR INTERACTIONS BETWEEN GME AND HEALTH-CARE RELATED INDUSTRIES (Vendors Policy)

Updated June 2020

Principles

1. Attending faculty and house staff are committed to intellectual rigor and objectivity in providing medical information and medical care.
2. Industry detailing should not bias physician practice.
3. A primary focus for Spokane Teaching Health Center (STHC) clinical training programs is to prepare physicians in training and student physicians to render patient -focused, competent, evidence-based, responsible and cost-effective clinical care. The ability to critically evaluate information, from academic and commercial sources, and the ability to identify various commonly employed marketing strategies intended to influence physician practice, are components of this process.
4. Potential physician conflicts of interest generated by industry marketing activities should always be resolved in favor of sound patient care and unbiased medical education.
5. The STHC GMEC vests its residency program directors with the latitude to interpret the following guidelines according to the specific requirements of their own programs while still adhering to the STHC principles.
6. GMEC also believes that its program directors have the right to extend these guidelines to their own programs if deemed necessary.

GUIDELINES FOR GME PROGRAMS, RESIDENTS, FACULTY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Physicians

1. Physicians should model behavior consistent with ethical guidelines developed by professional organizations regarding relationships between physicians and industry.
2. Whether presenting recommendations to patients or to an audience in teaching sessions, physicians should present information that is objective and balanced.

Industry Representatives

1. In addition to adhering to policies specifically dealing with graduate medical education programs, industry representatives must also adhere to existing relevant hospital-based policies written to deal with industry representatives' presence in those hospitals.
2. It is inappropriate for industry representatives to interrupt a resident's work time. During the workday, if an industry representative wishes to contact a resident, the contact must be via a message through the residency program administrative office. It is at the resident's discretion to decide if he or she wishes to respond.
3. Unless part of an already scheduled presence in the hospital or clinic (such as for demonstrating a medical device), if an industry representative wishes to meet with a full-time faculty member, the representative should do so via an appointment.

4. Unless needed to demonstrate use of medical devices, it is inappropriate for industry representatives to be in areas where confidential patient information is being elicited, discussed or reviewed.

Gifts, Honoraria and Payments

1. Any gift from an industry, be it either for marketing purposes or for educational purposes, may exert influence on the accepting physician. STHC requires that its member training programs decide the value and validity of allowing its employees to accept any class of gift (including but not limited to marketing paraphernalia, free meals and educational textbooks.)
2. Payments from industry to a STHC physician for giving a drug-sponsored lecture may make it seem that the lecturer is endorsing the industry product. (This "speakers' bureau" type of lecture is different than a lecture given during a CME-accredited conference where unrestricted grants from multiple sources are used to offset the costs of the conferences.) STHC requires that each of its member training programs decide the value and validity of allowing residents and faculty to be paid to give such lectures.
3. Physicians being paid in cash or products to listen to promotional lectures (live or televised) is inappropriate.
4. Accepting industry payment to offset travel or lodging expenses merely to attend an industry-sponsored, non-CME accredited conference is, or could be perceived as, inappropriate.

Free Drug Samples Free drug samples are not allowed in the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic.

Education

1. As part of its curriculum, each member training program shall educate its residents in understanding conflict of interest issues generated by physician-industry interactions.