

Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine

Graduate Medical Education Policies

VENDOR INTERACTIONS

ACGME Policies

IR.IV.L. Vendors: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy that addresses interactions between vendor representatives/corporations and residents/fellows and each of its ACGME-accredited programs.

Background

Per the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Medical Association (AMA) requirements, the relationship between residents/fellows and pharmaceutical or other vendors is one that must be closely monitored by the Sponsoring Institution to avoid and/or minimize actual or perceived conflicts of interest and/or commitment. Moreover, when actual or perceived conflicts arise, they must be addressed appropriately.

Procedure

Industry plays a vital role in the discovery of therapeutics, technology, development, and the overall improvement of public health. However, unstructured product promotion in the GME setting may lead to unbalanced information and biases, which may have long standing implications on a trainee's future practice. Residents/fellows must acquire clinical skills and judgement in objective and evidence-based clinical and teaching environments, free from the influence of financial gain. The Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine (COM) residents/fellows should be made aware of the medical industry's current methods of promotion and the potential conflicts of interest which may result from some programs.

This policy shall apply to all interactions between residents/fellows and companies which promote and/or sell biomedical, scientific, or pharmaceutical products or services.

All interaction between residents/fellows and industry must be channeled through the appropriate Program Director. Support for activities which are educationally based, such as support of a speaker or research program, must be approved and managed by the Program Director or his/her designee.

- Support which is not educationally based, such as event tickets, drug samples for personal use, or travel funds, is not allowed.

- The donation of items not intended to benefit an individual, such as a book for a departmental library, is generally permitted.
- While providing meals for Grand Rounds is not allowed, the donation of funds to a general GME/CME account for educational activities is generally permitted, as long as the donation is unrestricted.
- Scholarships, and other educational support for trainees, as long as the funds are provided to the GME Office and the company does not select the beneficiary of such awards, is generally permitted.
- While honoraria or other remuneration to attend a sales presentation at an industry event is prohibited, reasonable and necessary expenses associated with modest travel for bona-fide purchasing, training and education are permitted under certain circumstances.

All ACGME-accredited training programs must develop and implement a policy on interactions between residents/fellows and industry, as well as provide training on the topic. The policy must specify the amount and type of direct interaction that industry representatives may have with trainees and must address those occasions in which involvement by industry representatives or promotion of products would be inappropriate.

Resident/fellow interaction with industry representatives should occur only for educational purposes under faculty supervision. If a program permits industry representatives to attend program conferences, morning reports, rounds, etc. the policy must describe the interaction of industry representatives with residents/fellows in those venues. Each program should develop mechanisms whereby industry representatives who wish to provide educational information on their products may do so by invitation in Faculty-supervised structured group settings that provide the opportunity for interaction and critical evaluation. Highly trained industry representatives with MD, PHD, or PharmD degrees would be best suited for transmitting such scientific information in these settings.

All residents/fellows shall receive annual formal instruction on the interplay between physicians and industry, including potential conflicts of interest/commitment, and the influence of marketing.

These policies will be approved by the GMEC, and on file with the DIO.

All Program and COM-sponsored medical education events must include full and appropriate disclosure of sponsorship and financial interests above and beyond those already governed by the Standards for Commercial Support promulgated by the

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. Program Directors and faculty should disclose any financial relationships with industry, including, but not limited to; ownership of practice and hospital sites, at the time of appointment to these positions, through the COM reporting procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2021

APPROVAL DATE: August 31, 2021

NEXT REVIEW DATE: January 31, 2024