

## The history of disclosure in the UK

The UK pharmaceutical industry has a long history of openness about its collaborations with HCPs, HCOs and patient organisations, dating back to the introduction of the first ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry published in 1958.

First ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry published

1958

ABPI Code requires disclosure of arrangements with patient organisations

1968

UK Medicines Act

ABPI Code requires disclosure of grants and donations to healthcare organisations

2006

European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) updates Patient Organisation Code

2007

2012

ABPI Code requires aggregate of payments to HCPs

2012

EFPIA Disclosure Code published

2013

Launch of Disclosure UK and disclosure of individual payments to HCPs

2016

Disclosure 2017 and beyond...

2017

The ABPI represents innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies, large, medium and small, leading an exciting new era of biosciences in the UK.

For further information about Disclosure UK, please contact:

### The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

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For further information about the ABPI Code, including access to a digital copy of the Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry, visit: [www.pmcpa.org/thecode](http://www.pmcpa.org/thecode) or contact:

### Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority

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## Working together to help patients live healthier lives

The pharmaceutical industry works with doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals (HCPs) on the development and delivery of life-changing and life-saving medicines to improve treatment for patients, helping them live healthier lives.

Some of this work involves collaborating with HCPs whose extensive expertise and experience on the 'front-line' of patient care can support improvements in medicines. This involves sharing expertise and educating other HCPs so they have the most up-to-date information when making treatment decisions with patients. The majority of our collaboration with HCPs involves working with doctors, nurses and pharmacists as well as healthcare organisations (HCOs) on clinical trials and other research activities to discover, develop and deliver effective medicines that make a difference.

We are committed to doing this and benefitting patients by operating in a professional, ethical and transparent way. We do this through the ABPI Code of Practice, which requires companies to disclose details of collaborations with HCPs and HCOs. This information is available on Disclosure UK – a database of pharmaceutical industry collaborations with UK HCPs and HCOs.

[www.disclosureuk.org.uk](http://www.disclosureuk.org.uk)

REP-0074-0317



## What is **Disclosure UK**?

Disclosure UK<sup>1</sup> is a searchable, online database showing transfers of value – payments and other benefits in kind – made to HCPs and HCOs for working in partnership with the pharmaceutical industry. It is part of a Europe-wide commitment to greater transparency by the industry.

Disclosure UK launched on 30 June 2016 showing data for 2015. It will be updated at the end of June with the 2016 data. By the end of June 2018 the database will show data for the last three years (2015, 2016 and 2017). Transfer of value data shown on Disclosure UK covers the key areas of collaboration between industry and HCPs, including:

- participation in advisory boards
- speaking at or chairing meetings
- working with and advising doctors and scientists in pharmaceutical companies
- speaking at conferences and symposia
- attending and contributing to national and international conferences
- participating in medical education and training funded by pharmaceutical companies.

It also shows transfers of value for collaboration with HCOs including:

- provision of grants and donations
- sponsorship of events for the provision of medical education to HCPs.

In addition it shows the total amounts that pharmaceutical companies spend annually on research and development activities with HCPs and HCOs, most commonly in clinical trials.

1 <http://www.abpi.org.uk/our-work/disclosure/Pages/DocumentLibrary.aspx>, accessed December 2016

2 <http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/abpi-public-disclosure-of-payments-from-pharmaceutical-companies-to-hcps/>, accessed December 2016

## Healthcare professionals' thoughts on **disclosure**

The vast majority of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and hospital specialists agree that payments from pharmaceutical companies to individual HCPs should be transparent.

A poll of more than 500 UK HCPs shows that 87% believe payments from pharmaceutical companies to individually named healthcare professionals should be transparent, with around two thirds (64%) saying that this information should be publicly declared. A further two thirds (64%) believe this should be declared on a single, publicly searchable, central database.<sup>2</sup>

Under current data protection legislation, HCPs must give their consent for us to publish their details on Disclosure UK if a pharmaceutical company has worked with them. When the database launched in 2016, an estimated 55% of individual healthcare professionals gave their consent for this information to be disclosed on a named basis.

Those who have given permission for their information to be disclosed can be searched on Disclosure UK by a number of criteria including their name and professional address. Users can also search the database by pharmaceutical company.



## What is the **Code of Practice**?

The ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry exists to ensure that pharmaceutical companies operate in a responsible, ethical and professional manner.

Established by the ABPI in 1958, the Code sets standards for the promotion of prescription-only medicines to HCPs and other relevant decision-makers in the UK in order to support high-quality healthcare.

The Code covers:

- journal, direct mail and digital advertising
- the activities of representatives, including any materials used by them
- the supply of samples
- the provision of inducements to prescribe, supply, administer, buy or sell medicines, by the gift, offer or promise of any benefit or bonus whether in money or in kind
- the provision of hospitality
- promotional meetings
- the sponsorship of scientific and other meetings, including payment of travel and accommodation expenses
- all other sales promotion including exhibitions and digital communications
- the provision of information to the public
- relationships with patient organisations.

The Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA), a self-regulatory body, independent of the ABPI, administers the Code.

The PMCPA operates the complaints procedure under which the materials and activities of pharmaceutical companies are considered in relation to the requirements of the Code and provides advice, guidance and training on the Code.

More than 100 pharmaceutical companies operating in the UK are signatories to the Code and accept the jurisdiction of the PMCPA.

