

## PROCEDURE GME 24

**Subject:** INTERACTIONS BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND GME PROGRAMS WITH INDUSTRY

**Effective Date:**  
JANUARY 2007

**Applies to:** HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL – GME PROGRAMS

**Date Revised:**  
September 2022

**Scope:** ACGME-ACCREDITED AND GMEC-APPROVED PROGRAMS

**Target Review Date:**  
September 2025

**Originating Area:**  
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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### **I. GENERAL STATEMENT**

Industry plays a vital role in drug discover, technology development, and improving public health. However, unstructured product promotion in the GME setting may lead to unbalanced information and biases, which have long standing implications on a Resident’s future practice. Residents must acquire clinical skills and judgment in objective and evidence-based clinical and teaching environments. Residents should be made aware of medical Industry’s current methods of promotions and the potential Conflicts of Interests that can result from the gifting process.

This policy shall apply to all interactions between Residents and companies that promote and sell biomedical, scientific, or pharmaceutical products or services

### **II. DESCRIPTION OF GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND INDUSTRY**

- A. Program-specific Policy: Each Program of GME must develop and implement a policy on interactions between Residents and Industry.
  - o The policy must specify the amount and type of direct interaction that Industry representatives may have with Residents and must address those occasions in which involvement by Industry representatives or promotion of Industry products would be inappropriate.
    - o Resident interaction with Industry representatives should occur only for education purposes under Faculty supervision.
    - o 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 in those venues.
    - o 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.
  - o With the exception of food provided in connection with Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)-accredited programming and in compliance with ACCME guidelines, industry-supplied food and meals are

considered personal gifts and will not be permitted or accepted in Methodist-sponsored programs of GME.

- If Faculty and Residents choose to dine off-site on their own personal time with industry representatives, it is recommended that they pay for their own meals.
  - All other gifts and meals funded by industry are prohibited, regardless of nature or value.
  - Residents and faculty in programs of GME are prohibited for accepting payment for attendance at industry-sponsored meetings and accepting personal gifts from industry at such events.
  - The policy must be distributed to Residents, Faculty, Industry representatives, and other participating institutions or teaching sites. These policies will be reviewed by the DIO and approved by the GME Committee.
- B. Compliance with Other Conflicts of Interest Policies. All Residents and Faculty must also comply with Houston Methodist's Hospital—Medical Center Policy HR46-- Acceptance of Honoraria, Consulting Fee, Etc., Policy HR 21—Distribution and Solicitation, and Policy BP 19 - Gifts & Tips.
- C. Responsibilities of the GMEC and its Programs:
- Formal Instruction. Because Residents will always encounter medical Industry personnel and literature, all Residents must receive formal instruction on the interplay between physicians and Industry, including potential Conflicts of Interest and the influence of marketing.
    1. Instruction on the influence of physician-pharmaceutical or Industry representative interactions will be given to new Residents at New Resident Orientation annually. This instruction will ensure that Residents are able to:
      - Describe the published guidelines regarding gift-giving to physicians (including ethical opinion, E-9.6.2: Gifts to Physicians from Industry (Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association)
      - Recognize and describe how activities can influence judgment in prescribing decisions and research activities
    2. Each residency program will educate its Residents and Faculty in appropriate prescribing practices at least annually. The curriculum will ensure that Residents:
      - Demonstrate how to manage encounters with Industry representatives
      - Demonstrate how to handle patient requests for medication, particularly regarding direct-to-consumer advertising of drugs
      - Describe the purpose, development, and application of drug formularies and clinical guidelines and discuss such issues as branding, generic drugs, off-label use, and use of free samples
      - Demonstrate appropriate cost-benefit analysis as a part of prescribing practice
      - Advocate for patient rights within health care systems with attention to pharmaceutical costs
      - Recognize and describe the ethics statements of pertinent medical specialty societies and apply those guidelines to practice
- D. Notwithstanding the above, Residents may attend GME or House Staff (GME-Approved) sponsored lectures or conferences off campus for purposes of educating

Residents on life after residency issues such as insurance, finances, starting a practice, contract negotiation, etc.

- E. Disclosure of Actual, Potential, or the Appearance of Conflicts of Interest: All Program and Sponsoring Institution-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, annually through Methodist's Conflict of Interest Program, and as actual, potential, or the appearance of Conflicts of Interest arise.

### **III. COMMITTEE REVIEWING OR APPROVING PROCEDURE**

1. Graduate Medical Education Committee [Approved 11 January 2007] [8 October 2009] [14 March 2013][11 October 2018][14 September 2022]

### **IV. AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCES**

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Principles to guide the relationship between Graduate Medical Education and Industry. October 2011. Available from URL: [https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/PublicationsPapers/pp\\_GMEGuide.pdf](https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/PublicationsPapers/pp_GMEGuide.pdf). Accessed 9/2022.

Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. Gifts to Physicians from Industry (E-9.6.2). American Medical Association, 2001. Available from URL: <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/gifts-physicians-industry>. Accessed 9/2022

Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. Standard 4: Manage Commercial Support Appropriately. Available from URL: <https://www.accme.org/accreditation-rules/standards-for-integrity-independence-accredited-ce/standard-4-manage-commercial-support-appropriately>. Accessed 9/2022