

Gifts and Conflict of Interest---Model Policies

In the Journal of the American Medical Association's 2006 Article "[Health Industry Practices that Create Conflicts of Interest](#)", academic medical centers were called on to change their policies on the acceptance of gifts. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has now endorsed this view point in their [2008 report on Industry Funding of Medical Education](#), stating that "Academic medical centers should establish and implement policies that prohibit the acceptance of any gifts from industry by physicians and other faculty, staff, students, and trainees of academic medical centers, whether on-site or off-site".

The table below provides some excerpts from policies from a select example of institutions who have adopted these policy recommendations.

Issue Area	Academic Medical Center*	Exemplary Policy
Gifts	Kaiser Permanente, Veterans Affairs, Vanderbilt, UTHSCSA, Stanford, HealthPartners	Physicians may not accept any form of personal gift from industry or its representatives.
Meals	University of Wisconsin, University of Pittsburgh, Stanford	Food or drink may not be provided by any vendor.
Samples	University of Michigan, HealthPartners, SMDC	Sample medications are not permitted
Pharmaceutical representative access to physicians	University of Pennsylvania, Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center, Vanderbilt	Pharmaceutical representatives are forbidden from patient areas at U Penn and UTHSCSA. U Penn's policies are very detailed, requiring representatives to register and schedule appointments to see physicians in their offices. BUSM/BMC does not permit interns, residents and other trainees to meet with sales representatives. Industry representatives may not attend on-campus educational events at Vanderbilt
Formularies	Yale University UTHSCSA	Physicians who are involved in institutional decisions concerning the purchase of or approval of medications or equipment, or the negotiation of other contractual relationships with industry, must not have any financial interest in pharmaceutical companies that might benefit from the institutional decision.
Continuing Medical Education	University of California at Davis	Industry support for continuing medical education goes into a central repository, and not directly (or indirectly, through a subsidiary agency) to an Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME)-accredited program.
Scholarships and Fellowships	Stanford University, UTHSCSA	Industry-supported scholarships go directly to the department or division, and not to the individual. The department or division is required to verify the educational merits of the conference or program for which the student receives funding.

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Consulting and Honoraria	University of Washington Vanderbilt UTHSCSA	University of Washington staff, like other state employees, may not receive honoraria, unless specifically authorized by the agency where they serve. An employee may not receive anything of economic value under any contract or grant outside of his or her official duties. Consulting agreements that pay Vanderbilt personnel without defined associated duties are prohibited UTHSCSA clinicians may accept only fair market compensation for specific, legitimate services provided by him or her to industry. Payment must commensurate with time and effort.
Products with Vendor Logos	Vanderbilt, St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System (SMDC)	While on campus, Vanderbilt personnel will not wear any clothing or item that displays the name of a non-Vanderbilt health service, product or logo SMDC purged every logoed item from its 17 clinics and four hospitals
Ghostwriting	UTHSCSA	UTHSCSA clinicians may not participate in or receive compensation for papers or speeches that were ghostwritten by individuals employed or retained by industry
Travel	UTHSCSA	UTHSCSA clinicians who are simply attending a CPE or other instructional activity and are not speaking or otherwise actively participating or presenting at the meeting, should not accept compensation from companies for either attending or defraying costs related to attending the meeting

*Institutions listed in each category are provided as examples and are not meant to be all-inclusive

This table adopted from the Prescription Projects' publication: http://www.prescriptionproject.org/newscenter/reports_publications?id=0004

Examples of Model Policies:

- Kaiser Permanente
- Veterans Affairs
- U. Wisconsin
- U. Pittsburgh
- U. Michigan
- U. Pennsylvania
- Boston U. SoM/Boston Medical Center
- Yale U.
- U.C. Davis
- Stanford U.
- U. Washington
- Vanderbilt
- University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA)
- HealthPartners (Minnesota-based not for profit HMO)
- St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System (SMDC)