

**Oregon Health & Science University
Center for Ethics in Health Care**

Principles, Procedures and Safeguards to Prevent and Manage
Real or Perceived Conflicts Of Interest

Approved **8/7/2017**

The Center for Ethics in Health Care (Center) was established in 1989 to be a voice for compassionate, just, respectful and dignified health care in our community. The founders established that the Center be unencumbered by funding from the health care industry or other commercial interests. To assure the independent voice and the promise made by the founding faculty, any and all gifts, grants and donations to programs administered or housed in the Center are held to this high standard.

The relationships created by gifts and donations from individuals and organizations must avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. To that end the Center faculty and staff accept the conflict of interest and acceptance of gifts policies established by Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Understanding that the OHSU policies allow support from the health care industry (under robust procedures), Center policy goes further and does not allow **any** funding from commercial health care related entities including, but not limited to, insurance companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, device makers and other health care product suppliers.

All Center activities are subject to this policy. For example, the Center administers the Oregon Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment Program (Oregon POLST), a program that endeavors to ensure a person's wishes for treatment are honored at the end of life. To preserve public trust and the program integrity, it is essential that Oregon POLST accept support only from non-industry sources. To accept industry funding could imply a conflict between the Oregon POLST Program goal to honor patient choice and possible cost saving that would benefit industry.

Center Committees provide oversight for this policy.

- Executive Committee – the Executive Committee is composed of faculty with ethics training who serve as Associate Directors in the Center and represents a broad range of units, Schools and Programs at OHSU. This leadership group informs and guides Center activities. The Center's Director chairs the Executive Committee, which meets on a monthly basis.
- Steering Committee – the Steering Committee is sponsored by the OHSU Foundation, and composed of community members, the Center's Director and one Associate Director. The Steering Committee's mission is to advance the work of the Center and secure resources needed to ensure the Center's continued growth and strategic plan.

The Center's policy builds on the strengths of OHSU policies that relate to gifts and donations.

Center policy goes further in providing the following additional safeguards regarding accepting gifts, grants, donations and other sources of funding as well as relationship to health care industry:

1. Funding to the Center must originate from entities that do not create real or perceived conflicts of interest,
2. The Center refuses all funding from commercial health care related entities,
3. The Center's Director and Executive Committee determine whether or not a potential donation meets the criteria for acceptance of funding,
4. Members of the Center's Executive and Steering Committees shall not have associations to the health care industry,
5. When necessary, the Center's director and Executive Committee will seek additional consultation from the Steering Committee, and
6. Any questions or concerns about donations are provided to the Center Director and/or an Executive Committee member.

Approved by Executive Committee: **8/7/2017**