

Student - Policy on Conflicts of Interest and Interactions between Industry



Policy Number: 100.1151.100

Policy Revision Date: 2020-05-26

Policy Category: General Administrative

Policy Owner: Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the Vice Dean for Medical Education

Policy Audience: Student Council

1. Definitions:

Conflict of Interest

2. Leadership Council Review:

Medical Curriculum Committee review and approval: May 26, 2020

3. Introduction / Purpose:

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GCSOM) has a mission to educate physicians and scientists to serve society using a community-based, patient-centered, Interprofessional and evidence-based model of education that is committed to inclusion, promotes discovery and utilizes innovative techniques. These goals require that students, interact with representatives of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, educational device, and hospital equipment supply industry (hereinafter Industry), in a manner that advances the use of the best available evidence so that medical advancements and new technologies become broadly and appropriately used.

While the interaction with Industry can be beneficial, Industry influence can also result in unacceptable conflicts of interest that may lead to increased costs of healthcare, compromise of patient safety, negative socialization of students and trainees, bias of research results, and diminished confidence and respect among patients, the general public and regulatory officials. Because provision of financial support or gifts may exert an impact on recipient's behavior, GCSOM has adopted the following policy to govern the interactions between Industry and GCSOM students.

GCSOM personnel are governed under Geisinger Employee Conflict of Interest Policies.

4. Governance and Enforcement:

5. Policy:

A. Scope of Policy:

This policy applies to all students of GCSOM. This policy applies to interactions with all sales, marketing, or other product-oriented personnel of Industry. These general principles reflected in this policy should guide interactions and relationships between GCSOM students and Industry representatives. The following limitations and guidelines are directed to certain specific interactions. For situations not specifically addressed, GCSOM students should consult in advance with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to obtain further guidance and clarification.

B. Specific Activities:

Industry sponsored meetings or industry support for off-campus meetings, students may not accept payment, gifts, or financial support from industry to attend lectures and meetings. (An exception may be made for modest meals (refer to section e), if part of a larger program.) GCSOM students may participate in or attend industry sponsored meetings or other off-campus meetings where industry support is provided only if:

- a. The activity is designated to promote evidence-based clinical care, medical knowledge and, or advance scientific research;
- b. The financial support of industry is prominently disclosed;
- c. Industry does not pay attendees travel and expenses;
- d. Attendees do not receive gifts or other compensation for attendance;
- e. Meals provided are modest (value comparable to standard meal allowance as specified by IRS);
- f. All lecture content, provided by either a GCSOM presenter or non-GCSOM presenter, reflects a balanced assessment of the current science and treatment options, and the speaker makes clear that the views expressed are the views of the speaker and not those of GCSOM.

C. Gifts and Provision of Meals:

Students shall not accept or use personal gifts (including food) from representatives of Industry, regardless of the nature or dollar value of the gift. Although personal gifts of nominal value may not violate professional standards or anti-kickback laws, such gifts do not improve the quality of patient care, and research has shown they may subtly influence clinical decisions and add unnecessary costs to the healthcare system. Gifts from Industry that incorporate a product or

company logo (e.g. pens, notpads or office items such as scales or tissues) introduce a commercial, marketing presence that is not appropriate to a non-profit educational and healthcare system. In addition, complimentary tickets to sporting or other events offered to students shall not be accepted.

D. Medical School Curriculum:

Students are trained to understand conflict-of-interest policies and recognize how industry promotion can influence clinical judgement.

E. Policy Enforcement:

Any student violation of this policy is considered under the direction of the Student Policy of Academic and Professional Standards Governing the MD program.

6. Key Stakeholders:

Student Council