

Core brief

Thursday 30 June 2016

Introduction

This issue provides information on: Acceptance of Gifts & Hospitality and Declaration of Interests, Disclosure Payments to Healthcare Professionals by Pharmaceutical Companies and provides a link to an NHSGGC press release issued today.

Acceptance of Gifts and Hospitality and Declaration of Interests

There have been a number of recent high profile cases where public employees have been found guilty and convicted of receiving gifts and hospitality from suppliers in return for improperly performing their duties.

It is important that NHSGGC staff do not place themselves in a position which risks, or appears to risk, conflict between their private interests and their NHS duties.

All NHSGGC staff must be aware of and follow, at all times, the [NHSGGC Code of Conduct for Staff](#) which incorporates the Standards of Business Conduct for NHS Staff. This includes instructions on the acceptance of gifts and hospitality and information on the Bribery Act 2010. Any hospitality accepted should be of a similar level to that which the Board as an employer would offer. All other offers of hospitality should be declined. Gifts other than articles of low intrinsic value such as calendars or diaries should be declined.

The Code of Conduct requires staff to declare any outside interests (such as employments, shareholdings, directorships, or other beneficial interests) which may give rise to (or may be perceived as giving rise to) a conflict with their NHS duties. Further details are available from the Code of Conduct and declarations can be made on the Board's on line [Register of Interests System](#). Declared interests should also include any payments, transfers of value, gifts and offers of hospitality (whether accepted or declined). Nil declarations of interest are also required. Staff should note that in addition to making a declaration of potential interests under the Code of Conduct, they are also required to declare any relevant interests when participating in committees and other meetings which they may attend.

If you are in any doubt about when, or how, to make a declaration of interest and what can/cannot be accepted you should seek advice from your line manager, Head of Department or Director.

Disclosure of Payments to Healthcare Professionals by Pharmaceutical Companies

Since 2012 the pharmaceutical industry in the UK has published details of the annual total payments made to healthcare professionals and healthcare organisations under the ABPI (Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry's) Code of Practice.

As part of a Europe wide initiative to increase transparency the pharmaceutical industry has now developed a publicly available database detailing individual payments and other benefits in kind made by pharmaceutical companies to healthcare professionals and healthcare organisations. The Disclosure UK database will be publicly available from 1st July 2016 and will show payments and transfers of value made from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2015 where the healthcare professional has given the pharmaceutical company permission to disclose the information. This includes activities such as speaking at or chairing meetings, advisory board meetings, training services, fees and expenses for services and sponsorship of attendance at meetings. The disclosures do not include certain payments in relation to Research & Development work such as clinical trials.

Each healthcare professional will be informed about the new disclosure requirement by the company/companies which have made a payment or other transfer of value to them. They will also receive a notification from Disclosure UK providing log in details which will allow them to check disclosures made under their name in the database. **Staff are reminded that these disclosures will also require to be registered as an interest under the NHSGGC Code of Conduct for Staff, as detailed above.**

It is possible that these disclosures could lead to interest by the media. If a member of staff is contacted direct by the media he/she should not enter into any discussions or make any comment and instead refer the enquiry to the NHSGGC Press Office (tel: 0141 201 4429) and also inform his/her line manager/Director so they are aware of the approach.

For more information about the Disclosure UK database, please visit: www.disclosureuk.org.uk

For more information about the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry, please visit the Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority website: www.pmcpa.org.uk

NHSGGC press release

The Glasgow City Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) is setting up a working group to explore the potential of piloting a drug injecting facility and heroin-assisted treatment within the city centre.

Current estimates suggest there is a group of approximately 500 very vulnerable people who inject drugs in public places in Glasgow city centre. The majority are individuals experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, recent imprisonment and poverty. [Click here to read the full release.](#)

Are your contact details up-to-date? [Click here](#) to check