

Public reporting of physicians' financial relationships

Final recommendations approved by Commission on November 6, 2008

Recommendation 1: The Congress should require all manufacturers and distributors of drugs, biologicals, medical devices, and medical supplies (and their subsidiaries) to report to the Secretary their financial relationships with:

- Physicians, physician groups, and other prescribers;
- Pharmacies and pharmacists;
- Health plans, pharmacy benefit managers, and their employees;
- Hospitals and medical schools;
- Organizations that sponsor continuing medical education;
- Patient organizations; and
- Professional organizations.

Recommendation 2: The Congress should direct the Secretary to post the information submitted by manufacturers on a public website in a format that is searchable by:

- Manufacturer;
- Recipient's name, location, and specialty (if applicable);
- Type of payment;
- Name of the related drug or device (if applicable); and
- Year.

Recommendation 3: The Congress should require manufacturers and distributors of drugs to report to the Secretary the following information about drug samples:

- Each recipient's name and business address;
- The name, dosage, and number of units of each sample; and
- The date of distribution.

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Data are preliminary and subject to change.*

The Secretary should make this information available through data use agreements.

Recommendation 4: The Congress should require all hospitals and other entities that bill Medicare for services to annually report the ownership shares of each physician who directly or indirectly owns an interest in the entity (excluding publicly-traded corporations). The Secretary should post this information on a searchable public website.

Recommendation 5: The Congress should require the Secretary to submit a report, based on the Disclosure of Financial Relationships Report, of the types and prevalence of financial arrangements between hospitals and physicians.