Vendor Policy – University of Illinois
College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign

Introduction and Purpose

The practice of medicine requires the adaptation of scientific knowledge for the welfare of the patient uninfluenced by the personal interests of the physician. Thus, any real or perceived conflicts of interest of the doctor that might adversely influence patient care, including privacy of health information and educational integrity, must be carefully avoided. The University of Illinois, College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign subscribes at the minimum to the guidelines outlined by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the American Medical Association Ethical Opinion on Gifts to Physicians from Industry: Opinion E-8.061 (AMA).

The policies of the College of Medicine will be superseded by policies of affiliated hospitals and the policies of the University of Illinois and the State of Illinois when the latter are more stringent.

Continuing Medical Education

The College of Medicine adopts the policies of the ACCME, its accrediting institution for continuing medical education. The faculty of the College of Medicine must be responsible for needs assessment, determination of learning objectives, selection and presentation of content, selection of education methods and evaluation. Those with opportunity to control content must have no conflicts of interest that might bias educational integrity. If there is unresolved conflict of interest, then conflicted faculty may not participate in the planning of the educational product. Unrestricted education grants from pharmaceutical, equipment manufacturing, insurance or educational products, or other industries with the potential to influence educational content are acceptable only when the grant is made to the University of Illinois College of Medicine Office of Advancement, Illinois Foundation, or Institutes and Conferences, a written agreement between the College and Industry representative details the commercial support, recipients of the educational product are advised in advance of the commercial support, all payments are distributed by the College, social components do not compete with educational activity, educational presentation are based on the scientific knowledge and provide a balanced view of commercial products.

Graduate Medical Education

Graduate Medical Education Programs will adhere, at a minimum, to the College policy and with both program requirements and institutional requirements of the ACGME. Graduate Medical Education Programs may develop more stringent policies for relationships with industry. Education for residents must be offered at a minimum of every 18 months that includes instruction in and discussion of published guidelines on gifts and other aspects of industry physician relationships. Residents should understand the literature related to commercial influence on physician practice.
Resident listserves will continue to be monitored to assure that advertising is prohibited. College of Medicine resources (technology, space, and staff) may not be utilized in any way to promote commercial interests including after hours physician promotional presentations or the distribution of gifts sponsored by industry.

Residents should not accept cash payment to attend a commercial presentation, gifts unrelated to medical practice, drug samples, or trips not authorized by the College. Residents may accept gifts of nominal value consistent with University policy when these are related to their education (e.g. textbook, pen, note pad, reflex hammer).

Undergraduate Medical Education

The curriculum must include instruction on the commercial influence of physician decision making, including presentation and discussion of published guidelines on gifts and other aspects of industry-physician relationship.

Unrestricted educational grants to support educational programs may be accepted by the Office of Advancement, or the Illinois Foundation subject to the ACCME standards to avoid conflicts on interest. Sponsorship will be acknowledged by written or verbal means at the time of the educational activity. Students should not accept cash payment to attend a commercial presentation, gifts unrelated to medical practice, drug samples, or trips not authorized by the College. Students may accept gifts of nominal value consistent with University policy when these are related to their education (e.g. textbook, pen, note pad, reflex hammer). Student listserves will continue to be monitored to assure that advertising is prohibited. College resources (technology, space and staff) may not be utilized in any way to promote commercial interests including after hours physician promotional presentations or the distribution of gifts sponsored by industry.

Grants for scholarships or for student awards or travel or any other donations to the College of Medicine to support any of its activities may be made through the Illinois Foundation or through the Office of Advancement. Only the College of Medicine will authorize expenditure from these grants. Only the College of Medicine will identify students to receive scholarship, awards, or travel support.