

CONFLICT OF INTEREST Q & A

Q: Can vendors buy books or equipment for faculty, residents or staff?

A: Only if the cost of the book/equipment is less than or equal to \$25.

*In addition, a vendor can provide an unrestricted educational gift/donation to the department. The department **MUST** be the party to determine how the gift/donation will be spent on educational priorities within their respective department.*

While we can not ban nominal gifts due to the WV State Code 6B-2-5, we are trying to eliminate any “quid pro quo” situations with our vendors.

Q: Can we accept and use vendor marketing material (i.e. pens, note pads...etc.)?

A: While the policy specifically does not ban these products, it is preference of the Dean's Office that these products are not accepted by a department and used in patient care areas.

Under the School's Col policy, we are trying to eliminate any “quid pro quo” situations with our vendors. While these marketing materials are nominal in cost, they may create a false perception by our patients being seen in clinic with regard to the influence of a particular vendor.

Q: Can patient educational materials be used in our clinic or given to patients that have been provided by a vendor (i.e. diagrams of body parts, brochures with regard to particular diseases... etc.)?

A: Yes. It is the Dean's Office preference that purely marketing materials are NOT accepted by our departments, however, we do believe that it is in the best interest of our patients that we continue to allow the use of vendor provided educational material.

Q: Can vendors provide food to departments for educational and other events (i.e. journal clubs, noon conferences, weekly lunches, journal clubs, section conferences, special events - open houses, section gatherings)?

A: Only if the event meets all ACCME Standards for Commercial Support (as for category 1 credit).
http://www.accme.org/dir_docs/doc_upload/68b2902a-fb73-44d1-872580a1504e520c_uploaddocument.pdf.

This does not mean the event has to be approved/coordinated by our CME office, however, the Chair or Program Director in each department will need to determine if the event meets the ACCME standards. Therefore, no food can be provided at events by vendors unless approved by the Chair or Program Director.

*A vendor can provide an unrestricted educational gift/donation to the department. The department **MUST** be the party to determine how the gift/donation will be spent on educational priorities within their respective department.*

Q: What kind of information will departments have to keep demonstrating that the Chair or Program Director approved the conference?

A: Each department is responsible for assuring compliance with the policy. No specific documentation is required by the policy.

Q: Can a vendor take a clinician out to lunch or dinner for a business purpose?

A: Only if the cost of the meal is less than or equal to \$25.

While we can not ban meals due to the WV State Code 6B-2-5, we would encourage our clinicians to NOT engage in these types of events due to the implied quid pro quo that is present in these situations.

Q: How are research grants to faculty and staff regulated to avoid the potential for conflict of interest as is the aim of this policy?

A: Grants, contracts and charitable gifts provided by Industry are subject to current policies of the Office of Sponsored Programs and WVU Foundation respectively.

Q: Can vendors come into the work rooms within patient care areas?

A: No. Our policy prohibits vendors from patient care areas (with the exception of our satellite facilities).

However, under limited circumstances, device industry representatives may be allowed in patient care areas at the request of a clinician to facilitate a clinical procedure involving a pertinent device. In these instances, the WVU Hospital's policy on Vendor Visitation VI.210 must be followed.