



Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

10 September 2013

Secretary Code of Conduct Committee
Medicines Australia
16 Napier Close
DEAKIN 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE MEDICINES AUSTRALIA CODE OF CONDUCT

The **Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT)** welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Medicines Australia Code of Conduct*.

ASCEPT is committed to excellence and judicious prescription and use of medicines in Australia. Clinical pharmacologists are the only specialists specifically trained and charged with the tripartite mission of clinically relevant research, teaching and training, and policy and governance of medicines use. This is in addition to having a physician's grounding in diagnosis, medical management and therapeutics. ASCEPT therefore congratulates Medicines Australia on the review of the Code of Conduct. Specifically ASCEPT, the peak body for research and education in Clinical Pharmacology submits the following feedback to Items 5.4 and 5.11.

5.4 Starter Packs.

The availability of Starter packs may be useful in commencing immediate treatment, ie antibiotics in the case of infection, in an after-hours situation. **We therefore support the exclusion of Starter Packs from the transparency reporting requirements.**

5.11 Payments for expert witness in legal or administrative proceedings.

As there is already a robust and transparent framework relating to expert opinions whereby the expert's general duty is to the Court, it is ASCEPT's view that including payments to healthcare professionals when they are acting as an expert witness would be an unnecessary duplication by Medicines Australia. **We therefore do not support its inclusion in the reporting requirements.**

Yours sincerely,

David Le Couteur
President

**ASCEPT is the professional and independent society in Australia and New Zealand
with expertise in the use and toxicity of medicines and chemicals**

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