

Code Review Panel Communiqué

The Code Review Panel (CRP) held its fifth formal meeting on 17 December 2013. The following members attended the meeting:

Mr Geoff McDonald (Chairman)	GlaxoSmithKline
Mr Adrian Anderson	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Daniella Dickson	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Ms Sonja Eibl	Bayer
Mr Aaron Guttmann	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Dr Robyn Langham	Australian Medical Association
Ms Shane McSpedden	Pfizer Australia
Dr Beata Niechoda	Shire Australia
Dr Shaun O'Mara	Novo Nordisk
Mr Andrew Roberts	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Claire Willmott (for Ms Kania)	Roche Products

Secretariat

Ms Deborah Monk	Medicines Australia
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Apologies

Ms Kerry Cunningham	FIT Biocenticals
Dr Ken Harvey	Consumers Health Forum
Mrs Sophie Hibburd	Medicines Australia
Ms Holly Kania	Roche Products

Ms Cunningham, Managing Director of FIT Biocenticals has joined the Panel following the resignation of former Panel Chairman, Dr Dominic Barnes.

The CRP:

- Noted that the legal advisory sub-group, reporting to the Panel, had been formed and would meet prior to Christmas to commence its consideration of legal issues, particularly the development of a form of words for seeking healthcare professionals' consent to disclosure of payments and transfers of value.
- Noted that the CFO Group is developing a 'strawman' proposal of the transparency model to draw out and identify the technical aspects and possible solutions.
- Brainstormed and debated the proposed data elements to be collected for disclosure. The output from this session will assist the CFO Group in its consideration of technical requirements.
- Was advised that Medicines Australia will meet with the ACCC prior to Christmas to inform the Commission of progress towards developing a transparency model.
- Discussed and refined the draft text to include the transparency model in the Code.
- Recommended that the Code should state that the maximum cost of a meal, including beverages, provided by a company to healthcare professionals within Australia must not exceed \$120 (excluding GST and gratuities) per person. This maximum would only be appropriate in exceptional circumstances and in most cases should be well below this figure. Food and beverages would not be required to be reported, but must comply with the monetary limit. For hospitality in association with overseas educational meetings this maximum amount and/or local country guidelines should be used as a guide.
- Noted that the Consumer Workshop Report had been finalised following its review by participating consumers. The Report will be posted to the Code Review page of the Medicines Australia website.
- Determined that the Code should continue to allow the provision of starter packs.

- Recommended that travel provided to HCPs to attend educational events must be by the most practical direct route to and from the locality.
- Discussed at length requirements for communicating changes of clinical significance to healthcare professionals and in Product Information.
- Agreed that de-identified, individual patient data may be collected through a Product Familiarisation Program if the program is set up in a manner that allows rigorous data collection under a formal protocol.
- Discussed a number of other amendments to the Code proposed in submissions.

The next meeting of the CRP will be held in early February 2014.