

Code Review Panel Communiqué

The Code Review Panel (CRP) held its seventh formal meeting on 20 February 2014. The following members attended the meeting:

Mr Adrian Anderson	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Sonja Eibl	Bayer
Mr Aaron Guttmann	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Ms Holly Kania	Roche Products
Dr Robyn Langham	Australian Medical Association
Ms Shane McSpedden	Pfizer Australia
Dr Beata Niechoda	Shire Australia
Mr Andrew Roberts	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Gennie Small	Pfizer Australia

Secretariat

Ms Deborah Monk	Medicines Australia
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Apologies

Mr Geoff McDonald (Chairman)	GlaxoSmithKline
Ms Kerry Cunningham	FIT Bioceuticals
Ms Daniella Dickson	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Dr Ken Harvey	Consumers Health Forum
Mrs Sophie Hibburd	Medicines Australia
Dr Shaun O'Mara	Novo Nordisk

The CRP:

- Confirmed its strong, in principle commitment to transparency about payments and transfers of value to healthcare professionals.
- Discussed advice from the CFO Group, which recommends that companies should publish the data on their own websites until such time as a central platform is available that enables consolidation of companies' data and ensures that companies' responsibilities under the Privacy Act are able to be rigorously implemented.
- Reaffirmed that it is the intention to create a central platform, which is accessible to consumers, for the declaration of payments to healthcare professionals. However, there are a number of legal, technical and logistical issues that must be resolved before a central platform can be developed. The CRP is actively seeking to resolve these issues. Until such time as a central platform is available, all companies' reports will be accessible via hyperlinks from the Medicines Australia website.
- Considered the mechanism by which healthcare professionals would be able to check and validate their data before it is published, and the time that should be allowed for validation.
- Recommended that two years' of data should be available to the public, built prospectively, comprising four six-month reports.
- Reviewed and continued to refine the sections of the Code that will describe the transparency model.
- Agreed that each company chief executive should be required to provide a verification statement to Medicines Australia that the company has completed and published the required data, each six months, and that the published report contains all relevant payments and transfers of value.

- Discussed and made proposed amendments to the Code relating to:
 - Communication to healthcare professionals of changes of clinical significance made to product information
 - Monitoring companies' conduct and compliance with the Code, including simplifying the current requirements for monitoring promotional materials and other activities.
 - Product Familiarisation Programs.

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