

Code Review Panel Communiqué

The Code Review Panel (CRP) held its tenth formal meeting on 9 April 2014. The following members attended the meeting:

Mr Geoff McDonald (Chairman)	GlaxoSmithKline
Mr Adrian Anderson	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Daniella Dickson	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Mr Aaron Guttmann	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Dr Robyn Langham	Australian Medical Association
Ms Shane McSpedden	Pfizer Australia
Ms Claire Willmott	Roche Products

Secretariat

Ms Deborah Monk	Medicines Australia
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Apologies

Ms Kerry Cunningham	FIT Bioceuticals
Ms Sonja Eibl	Bayer
Dr Ken Harvey	Consumers Health Forum
Ms Holly Kania	Roche Products
Dr Shaun O'Mara	Novo Nordisk
Mr Andrew Roberts	Boehringer Ingelheim

Dr Beata Niechoda has resigned from the Code Review Panel due to her leaving Shire Australia.

The CRP:

- Noted that communications with external stakeholders about the transparency model and revised Code had commenced. Stakeholder Forums for consultation with external stakeholders are scheduled for 28 and 29 April in Sydney and Melbourne.
- Received a report on several one to one briefings of key stakeholders undertaken by Medicines Australia. To date the stakeholders had been overall supportive of the proposed transparency model.
- Received advice from the Legal Advisory Sub-Group that it has requested policy advice from the Privacy Commissioner on interpretation of the privacy legislation with respect to the proposed transparency model.
- Noted that the Legal Advisory Sub-Group is continuing to refine the recommended process for seeking consent from healthcare professionals for the transparency information to be reported.
- Reviewed all submissions made to the review to check that all issues had been considered. A number of points raised in submissions will be included in the Code Guidelines. Otherwise, all issues have been considered.
- Agreed that if a healthcare professional doesn't attend a meeting for which a payment or transfer of value would have been made and reported (e.g. booked travel and accommodation), this would not be reported against the person's name, even if the company has incurred the expense, because no transfer of value has actually occurred.
- Agreed that the Department of Health's suggestion about communicating the risk of antimicrobial resistance in all advertising of antimicrobial products should be sent to all member companies for their information and consideration. The Panel did not agree that it was appropriate to include specific provisions concerning the advertising of particular classes of products in the Code.

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