

Code Review Panel Communiqué

The Code Review Panel (CRP) held its sixth formal meeting on 6 February 2014. The following members attended the meeting:

Ms Kerry Cunningham	FIT Bioceuticals
Ms Daniella Dickson	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
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 Shaun O'Mara	Novo Nordisk
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
Dr Ken Harvey	Consumers Health Forum
Dr Beata Niechoda	Shire Australia
Mrs Sophie Hibburd	Medicines Australia

The CRP:

- Noted advice from the legal advisory sub-group that express consent from healthcare professionals to disclose information about payments and transfers of value should be obtained. The sub-group is developing a recommended form of wording for consent and advice concerning when consent should be requested.
- Noted the advice that such consent would not prevent a healthcare professional opting-out from disclosure of payments later.
- Agreed that where a healthcare professional does not give their consent for disclosure, or opts out of disclosure later, payments should be reported as an aggregated amount with the number of people who opted out.
- Discussed recommendations from the CFO Group regarding the mechanism for reporting, including:
 - the recommended data fields
 - the capacity to consolidate reports from all companies without a unique alpha-numeric identifier, based solely on the healthcare professionals name and place of principal practice
 - the procedure for data validation and the practicality of obtaining a response from all healthcare professionals
- Recommended that the data collection periods should cover six months each, with the end of each period being 30 April and 31 October each year, thereby avoiding major holiday and end of financial year periods.
- Discussed the communications strategy under development by the advisory sub-group and the need to develop communication materials for use by stakeholder groups to communicate with their constituents.
- Discussed and further refined the draft text to include the transparency model in the Code.
- Discussed a number of other amendments to the Code proposed in submissions.

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