

**Guidelines for the Relationship between the Faculty of Medicine
and Health Related Industries**

FAQs

Development of Guidelines

Q How were the guidelines developed?

A See preamble of guidelines

Q Does this mean that there will be no more role for industry in medical education?

A Absolutely not. The guidelines are quick to acknowledge the important role of industry in medical education. The guidelines do not aim to remove industry involvement, but was designed to address any perceived or real conflict of interest in the ways in which industry is currently involved in funding medical education.

Q Has there been any dialogue with Industry about this?

A Absolutely. The AAMC foundation report/guidelines was the culmination of the work of a Task Force with significant industry involvement. In addition, we have spoken with industry representatives here in Canada in advance of this release and will be working with them to discuss issues relating to implementation.

Q Will the guidelines be updated on a regular basis?

A The task group is gathering comments/suggestions and plans to update the guidelines accordingly, on an annual basis

Q Do the guidelines replace existing conflict of interest and purchasing policies at Dalhousie, Capital Health and IWK?

A The guidelines do not replace existing policies; they are a supplemental resource to provide better understanding of appropriate relationships with industry.

Q Do all faculties of medicine have identical guidelines?

A Each faculty will implement guidelines based on their individual contexts and requirements. It is unlikely that there will be 17 identical guidelines.

Q Some of the health industry associations already have their own policies and guidelines for ethical behaviour? Why did we need to develop our own document?

A We appreciate the development of guidelines, policies and codes of conduct from various industry associations. Faculties of Medicine across Canada are reviewing their own guidelines and Dalhousie is participating in this context. The Faculty guidelines focus on issues specific to the academic setting.

Faculty Review of Guidelines

Q Have current faculty members received the guidelines and confirmed their review in writing?

A Yes, all faculty have received the guidelines and have been asked to confirm their review of the guidelines with their department head. Departments are gathering signatures from current faculty.

Q Are new faculty required to review the guidelines and confirm their review in writing?

A Yes, all faculty are required to review the guidelines and provide written confirmation to their department/division head.

Q Are students taught about the guidelines?

A Yes, these guidelines are incorporated into components of the curriculum (eg. Professional Competencies)

Gifts to Individuals

Q Reporting of benefits – do recipients have to report how much they receive (honoraria) or just that they have received?

A The Faculty of Medicine guidelines would require that faculty report that they did receive an honoraria, not the amount. However, the amount may well be an internal department issue, perhaps something required through the practice plan, for example.

Q Does this section apply when physicians are doing something while on vacation /time off?

A Faculty are expected to abide by the university regulations whether they are “on duty” or on vacation/time off.

Further information:

Q **Where can I get more information?**

A The guidelines can be found on our website:

<http://www.medicine.dal.ca/about/industry---guidelines.html>