

Vendor Interactions with Residents

Wisconsin Northern & Central GME Consortium (WiNC)

Initial GMEC Approval:	10-15-2019
Last GMEC Review Date:	

Scope

This policy pertains to WiNC-sponsored residency/fellowship programs. The term resident/residency is used synonymously with fellow/fellowship unless otherwise specified. (GMEC approved 10/20/2022)

Purpose

To outline the requirements for resident interactions with vendors/corporations that is consistent with WiNC policies, as well as the policies of clinical entities where residents see patients. This GMEC policy is intended to support a learning environment where residents will learn to make responsible and ethical decisions when selecting pharmaceuticals and medical supplies for their patients.

Guidelines

1. WiNC-sponsored programs are committed to providing residents responsible and ethical training to facilitate their ability to:
 - a. Critically evaluate information about pharmaceuticals and medical supplies based on unbiased published reviews and evidence-based medicine
 - b. Select therapeutic options based on the patient's best interest, including considerations for treatment efficacy, side effects, cost, and patient need
2. Residents will be informed about the potential influence for biased prescribing as a result of biased presentations and materials, food, gifts, samples, and other items from vendors/ corporations. To reduce these influences in the learning environment, even if otherwise permissible by the local organization:
 - a. Industry representative are prohibited from interacting with residents inside residency clinics unless part of a formal curriculum.
 - b. Presentations to residents by pharmaceutical and/or supply representatives, whose primary employer is with a vendor company, are not permitted.
 - c. Non-educational and biased marketing materials may not be accepted by residents while on resident duty. Likewise, others may not accept these materials to forward to residents.
 - d. Residents may not accept gifts, food, samples, and other items e.g. pens, paper, coffee mugs, etc., from vendors/corporations while on resident duty. Likewise, others may not accept such items on behalf of residents.
3. With approval from the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), on a case-by-case basis, and with critical review of value and parameters, unrestricted grant funding may be accepted from vendors for educational and research purposes with consultation as may be appropriate from the WiNC Executive Committee and others within the affiliated organization(s) as may be appropriate. In instances where policies of the affiliated organizations vary, the policy with the most limitations will prevail.

Responsibilities

1. The Graduate Medical Education Committee is responsible for:
 - a. Assuring that all programs are familiar with WiNC policies and procedures regarding interaction with vendors and corporations.
 - b. Overseeing the application of this GMEC policy by individual programs.
 - c. Reviewing program requests for participation in an unrestricted grant funding opportunity, and making decisions to approve or deny the request.
2. The local Program Director, or his/her designee, is responsible for:

- a. Informing faculty and staff about the guidelines of this policy, and educational goals and practices to support unbiased decision-making in the selection of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.
- b. Informing residents about the guidelines of this policy, and the influence that biased vendor presentations and materials, gifts, samples, etc. may have on responsible and ethical decision-making in patient care.
- c. Ensuring that compliance with this policy is met in their respective residency program.
- d. Evaluating the value and parameters of offers for non-restrictive grant funding from vendors.
- e. Informing GMEC when considering a non-restrictive grant funding opportunity from vendors/corporations.
- f. Obtaining GMEC's approval prior to engaging in a non-restrictive grant from vendors/corporations.

For GMEC ACGME Reference

ACGME Institutional Requirements (2022)

IV.L. Vendors: The Sponsoring Institution must maintain a policy that addresses interactions between vendor representatives/ corporations and residents/fellows and each of its ACGME-accredited programs. ^(Core)