

Statement:

Disclosure of Payments to Healthcare Professionals

13th July 2018

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges continues to recommend that all doctors voluntarily comply with the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry's (ABPI) 'Disclosure UK' which lists payments or benefits in kind made to them by drugs manufacturers. The Academy also supports NHS England Guidelines which ask all healthcare professionals (HCPs) and organisations (HCOs) to report any conflicts of interest on their relevant organisational register of interests. Through these mechanisms, it is hoped that transparency will be improved and conflicts of interest or apparent conflicts of interest will be reduced.

At the end of June 4th, the ABPI published the latest data from the Disclosure UK database for payments made to healthcare professionals during 2017¹. For this year an estimated 49.1% of individual HCPs who received payment or benefit in kind had data published against their name. This is a 16% drop from 2016 when 64.9% individual HCPs allowed their name to be published. This reduction for the 2017 data has been attributed to the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), where companies have either aggregated more data to avoid publishing individuals' personal data or re-sort consent to be compliant with GDPR which resulted in a different consent rate from previous years. The ABPI commented that they expect the figure to rise for 2018 as the new GDPR requirements are implemented. The ABPI statement can be found here [here](#).

Professor Alan Boyd, President of The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, who leads on the work on disclosure and conflicts of interest for the AoMRC said,

'This apparent decrease in the number of HCPs allowing their name to be published was a surprise given the increase in the disclosure rate that we have seen over the previous two years. However, with the recent introduction of the GDPR requirements this is understandable. Nevertheless, we do hope that for the future, all individuals and organisations do choose to be open about the payments and benefits that they are receiving, as we aim for 100% disclosure. Absolute transparency by HCPs is vital for the benefit of patients and their care'