

Pharmacy report they are not aware of any joint agreements which have been entered.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WORKING WITH PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

This code of practice relates to any proposed collaboration between a pharmaceutical company and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust. Collaboration or joint working can take many forms and can range from educational projects/programmes to provision of specialist nurses. Advice on the application of this code to specific projects is available from the Chair of the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee and the Chief Pharmacist. Where joint working with the pharmaceutical industry exists, this code must be adopted.

The ABPI publishes a free to access and publicly available database of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals who have received financial incentives for working with organisations (Disclosure UK available at:- <https://www.abpi.org.uk/ethics/ethical-responsibility/disclosure-uk/>).

Any officers or other staff of the Trust taking part in collaborative working with the industry must in addition comply with their own professional code of conduct and complete the trust wide declarations of interest form found at:- <http://intranet/website/staff/policies/standingfinancialinstructionsandorders/conflictsofinterestpolicyforsalisburyfoundationtrust.asp>

All proposals for joint working must abide by the following principles:

- all joint working between the NHS and the pharmaceutical industry must be for the benefit of patients.
- the interests of individual patients must be protected.
- patient confidentiality must be respected and preserved.

Each proposal for working with a company should initially be submitted to the relevant clinical director and subsequently to the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee for ratification. Any proposal to introduce a new drug to the Trust outside of a clinical trial should be accompanied by a completed Request for Addition to the Formulary Form for a new drug for consideration by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee. The requesting clinician should disclose on the form what sponsorship if any has been offered by the drug company promoting the drug. In the case of research, best research practice should apply and approval should be sought from the Local Research Ethics Committee and the Trust Research and Development Committee. It may then be considered appropriate to send it to the Joint Board of Directors for approval.

Joint working should not undermine or conflict with the ethical requirements of healthcare professionals to provide clinically appropriate care for patients.

All collaborations should be on the basis of a prior written agreement. The agreement shall explicitly state what resources the company intend to supply; what outcomes the company expect including any proposals to publicise the collaboration; what resources are expected from the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust collaborator; what outcomes are expected by the Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust collaborator .

Potential partners shall not advertise Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust's participation as an endorsement of their products, packages or company without the explicit written permission of the Trust. The Trust should agree the nature of any endorsement or linked publication.

Joint working should not be seen as an endorsement or promotion of a specific medicine or technology.

Reports or information relating to the joint working agreement should not be used or published without explicit permission given by all partners entering the agreement.

The pharmaceutical company will be expected to comply with the ABPI Code of Practice for the pharmaceutical industry at all times.

Clinical aspects must always be under local control. Development of guidelines or advice will be by a local group **not** including a representative of the pharmaceutical company. Guidelines will recommend generic products or a class of agent, and not use trade names.

Pharmaceutical companies may offer to sponsor, wholly or partially, a post within the Trust. The Trust or its employees should not enter into such arrangements, unless it has been made abundantly clear to the company concerned that the sponsorship will have no effect on purchasing decisions within the Trust. Where such sponsorship is accepted, monitoring arrangements should be established to ensure that purchasing decisions are not, in fact, being influenced by the sponsorship agreement. **Under no circumstances should the Trust or its employees agreed to "linked deals" whereby sponsorship is linked to the purchase of particular products, or to supply from particular sources.**

The company shall not be enabled to use Salisbury as a 'loss leader' site by providing free or very cheap drugs, materials or equipment, which subsequently needs to be provided out of Primary care resources. It may be appropriate for on-going supplies of medication/equipment to be made by secondary care to patients as part of a research/evaluation project. In such cases a detailed proposal is to be provided and ethical committee approval gained.

If there is competition in the market space a tendering process shall be undertaken as defined by the standing orders of the Trust.

Work should proceed on a project-by-project basis, not on the basis of an ongoing formal relationship.

An 'opt out' clause should be part of each written agreement.

Each formal collaborative project with pharmaceutical companies should be tested against the framework of this code of practice and be the subject of a process and financial audit exercise.

The Trust employee involved in any collaboration with a pharmaceutical company should inform their line manager of any sponsorship received from the company in question. In the case of study leave applications a record of any sponsorship received by a pharmaceutical company should be documented on the application form. In addition the employee is responsible for completing a declaration of interest form which is available from the Trust Board Secretary. This form is returned to the Trust Board Secretary who is responsible for maintaining a confidential Register of these details.

See also:

Best Practice Guidance on Joint Working between the NHS and Pharmaceutical Industry and other relevant commercial organisations, DH

[Joint Working - a toolkit for industry and the NHS \(abpi.org.uk\)](http://abpi.org.uk) SFT Standing Financial Instructions