



- [CMS' Open Payments Program Posts 2015 Financial Data](#)

CMS' Open Payments Program Posts 2015 Financial Data

Health care industry manufacturers reported \$7.52 billion in payments and ownership and investment interests to physicians and teaching hospitals in 2015

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) published the 2015 Open Payments (sometimes called the "Sunshine Act") data, along with newly submitted and updated payment records for 2013 and 2014, at <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/>. The Open Payments program requires that transfers of value by drug, device, biological, and medical supply manufacturers to physicians and teaching hospitals be published on a public website.

In program year 2015, health care industry manufacturers reported \$7.52 billion in payments and ownership and investment interests to physicians and teaching hospitals. This amount is comprised of 11.90 million total records attributable to 618,931 physicians and 1,116 teaching hospitals. Payments in the three major reporting categories are:

- \$2.60 billion in general (i.e., non-research related) payments
- \$3.89 billion in research payments
- \$1.03 billion of ownership or investment interests held by physicians or their immediate family members

Over the course of the Open Payments program since 2014, we have published 28.22 million records, accounting for \$16.77 billion in payments and ownership and investment interests.

The Open Payments 2015 program year data set is the second full year of data available on the CMS Open Payments website. The availability of consecutive, full-year data provides for the opportunity to now trend the health care industry's payments to physicians and teaching hospitals for items and services such as food and beverage, travel, education, honoraria, and research. We are also able to analyze payments related to covered drugs, devices, biologicals, and supplies. For example, we were able to determine that for program year 2015, 2.26 percent (637,131 records) of all financial transactions between physicians and pharmaceutical companies were related to opioid medications.

The amount and distribution of payments and ownership and investment interest categories remained consistent between 2014 and 2015. Table 1 below compares 2014 and 2015 payments by category – general, research and ownership and investment interests.

Table 1: Open Payments Trending, 2014 – 2015

	2014	2015
General Payments		
Number of Records	11.18 million	11.13 million
Value	\$2.64 billion	\$2.60 billion
Research Payments		
Number of Records	672,969	764,679
Value	\$3.79 billion	\$3.89 billion
Ownership and Investment Interests		
Number of Records	5,268	4,322
Value	\$1.06 billion	\$1.03 billion
Total Open Payments Records		
Number of Records	11.86 million	11.90 million
Value	\$7.49 billion	\$7.52 billion

While totals by major reporting category remained relatively unchanged between 2014 and 2015, there were some shifts in who was paid and how the money was spent. See Table 2 and Figure 1 below. The Open Payments program does not distinguish between payments that are beneficial and those that may indicate conflicts of interest; however, the identification of these shifts may be of significance to researchers and other interested stakeholders.

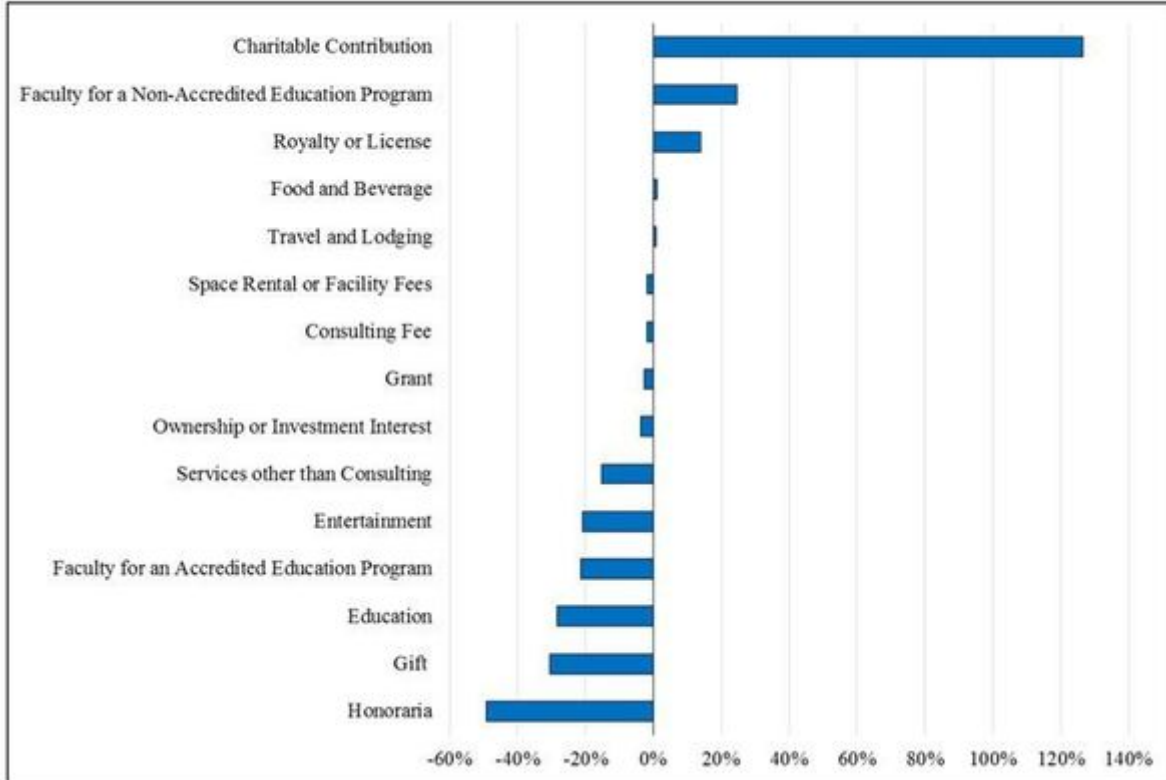
Table 2: Highest Paid Physician Types, 2014 and 2015

2014		2015	
Physician Types	Average Total Payment Per Physician	Physician Types	Average Total Payment Per Physician*
Orthopaedic Surgery	\$34,596.88	Nuclear Medicine	\$51,279.00
Neurological Surgery	\$26,049.65	Neurological Surgery	\$26,104.33
Clinical Pharmacology	\$17,014.10	Orthopaedic Surgery	\$26,080.31
Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	\$10,048.29	Radiology	\$19,573.79
Nuclear Medicine	\$8,037.13	Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine	\$15,299.15

Table 3: Top Ten Reporting Entities by Total Reported Value, 2014 and 2015

2014			2015		
Reporting Organization Name	Total Value	Number of Records	Reporting Organization Name	Total Value	Number of Records
Genentech, Inc.	\$384,935,124	23,998	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	\$539,114,196	180,664
Pfizer Inc.	\$335,807,945	702,059	Genentech, Inc.	\$470,314,153	20,406
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation	\$302,035,544	164,570	Pfizer Inc.	\$436,410,844	766,518
E.R. Squibb & Sons, L.L.C.	\$245,667,031	191,431	Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals LP	\$276,431,969	574,546
Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals LP	\$230,367,809	773,332	Amgen Inc.	\$253,642,291	267,703
Glaxosmithkline, LLC.	\$215,744,519	312,490	Ellipse Technologies, Inc.	\$237,735,782	310
SPINEFRONTIER, INC.	\$202,393,704	88	ICU Medical Inc.	\$219,408,695	9
Sanofi US Services Inc.	\$172,925,228	50,825	E.R. Squibb & Sons, L.L.C.	\$183,061,733	205,694
ICU Medical Inc	\$170,544,848	4	Merck Sharp & Dohme Corporation	\$162,366,711	347,955
Eli Lilly and Company	\$146,335,992	10,143	Glaxosmithkline, LLC.	\$142,403,761	420,556

Figure 1: Percent Change of Total Dollar Value by Nature of Payment, 2014 - 2015



Health care industry manufacturers must report to the Open Payments program annually, while participation by physicians and teaching hospitals is voluntary and encouraged. If physicians or teaching hospitals disagree with what has been reported about them, they can initiate a data dispute against the record and work with the reporting entity to resolve the discrepancy before the data is published. This process helps verify the accuracy of the Open Payments data. Overall, 0.13 percent of records (16,653 records) were disputed, accounting for 1.95 percent of the total value of published records. Additionally, 0.22 percent of records (28,955 records) were affirmed by physicians and teaching hospitals, accounting for 0.76 percent of the total value of the published records. Registered physicians and teaching hospitals with data attributed to them in the Open Payments system account for 35.45 percent of the total value of their published data. This does not include research-related payments made to non-covered recipients that employed physician principal investigators, which accounted for 40.92 percent of the published payments value.

Acting CMS Administrator, Andy Slavitt, highlights the importance of the Open Payments program in furthering CMS’ commitment to transparency:

“Open Payments is a trusted consumer resource that provides consumers and other interested stakeholders with data about the financial relationships between physicians and health care industry manufacturers. This transparency, along with our other transparency programs, helps further our mission of achieving a high-quality health care system that ensures better care, access to coverage and improved health at lower cost.”

Dr. Shantanu Agrawal, CMS Deputy Administrator and Director of the Agency’s Center for Program Integrity, added that “transparency is empowering physicians to be purposeful about their financial

relationships with companies, and there is a notable shift towards charitable contributions and away from other interactions such as honoraria and gifts.”

CMS has also implemented several enhancements to the public Open Payments program website. For example, search results will now be aggregated in alphabetical order by company reporting the payment. Dr. Agrawal, emphasizes that these improvements will improve clarity of the data and enhance the user experience:

“The recent enhancements to the Open Payments website helps provide data to the public in a way that is easy to search, analyze, and download,” Dr. Agrawal said. “These improvements will help the user to more easily access and examine data related to the financial relationships between manufacturers and health care providers.”

CMS is scheduled to refresh the Open Payments data in early 2017 to reflect updates to the data that have been made since this publication. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/openpayments/index.html> and <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov>.

Get CMS news at [cms.gov/newsroom](https://www.cms.gov/newsroom), sign up for CMS news [via email](#) and follow CMS on Twitter [@CMSgov](#).

[\(Back to top\)](#)

Creating Public Transparency of Industry-Physician Financial Relationships. Learn More.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has sent this update.

To contact CMS go to our [Contact Us](#) page.

You're getting this message because you subscribed to get email updates from the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#).

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#).