



Information patients can use on:

OPEN PAYMENTS

What is Open Payments?

Sometimes, doctors and teaching hospitals have financial relationships with drug, device, biological, and medical supply manufacturers. Open Payments is a national transparency program that collects data about these financial relationships and makes the information available to you.

Why is this program important?

Open Payments is designed to increase public awareness of financial relationships that could affect your health care. The program has created a database of the financial relationships between the health care industry, doctors, and teaching hospitals. You can see information in the database by visiting cms.gov/openpayments.

What kinds of payments are reported?

Here are some examples of payments that need to be reported by the health care industry under this program:

- Payments for speaking engagements or consultations
- Gifts or vacations
- Entertainment, like tickets to a sporting event, concert, or theater shows
- Food and drink
- Travel and lodging
- Education, like textbooks and medical refresher courses
- Research activities, including enrolling patients in clinical trials
- Ownership and investment interests doctors or their family members may have in health care manufacturing companies

What do these payments mean?

Collaboration among doctors, teaching hospitals, and health care manufacturing companies contributes to the design and delivery of many life-saving drugs and devices. However, sometimes these payments can cause conflicts of interest.

Open Payments doesn't make assumptions or draw conclusions about the information reported. This means that the program won't tell you which payments are good or bad.

What should I do with this information?

The program doesn't make assumptions or draw conclusions about the information reported, and you shouldn't either. If you have any questions or concerns with the information you see on the website, you should include that as one of the many things you talk about with your health care provider.

Will this have any effect on my health coverage?

No. Your health coverage isn't affected by Open Payments.

Where can I get more information?

Visit cms.gov/openpayments to learn more.

