



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 openpaymentsdata.cms.gov.

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 or group purchasing organizations

What do these payments mean?

Collaboration among doctors, teaching hospitals, health care manufacturing companies, and group purchasing organizations 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. The program only makes the information available to the public to empower patients with their health care decisions. 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.

You have the right to get the information in this product in an alternate format. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit CMS.gov/about-cms/agency-information/aboutwebsite/cmsnondiscriminationnotice.html, or call 1-800-MEDICARE for more information.

