

Position Statement: NHS Members Engagement with Manufacturers

The National Pharmaceutical Supply Group (NPSG) currently advises against participation in advisory boards sponsored by Manufacturers (Marketing Authorisation Holders). The NHMC supports this advice in its objective to prevent bribery or other criminal or unethical behaviours.

Over 75%¹ of the homecare medicines services market by patient volume is sponsored by Marketing Authorisation Holders or Manufacturers ('Manufacturer Funded'). It is essential for the NHMC to engage with manufacturers to ensure the sponsored homecare medicines services offered are safe and appropriate.

The NHMC have published 'Good Practice Principles for the Provision of Manufacturer Funded Homecare Services'² which encourages Manufacturers to *"provide the NHMC at least three months' notice"* to allow *"the NHMC to identify and discuss with the Manufacturer any anticipated barriers, challenges or other considerations in relation to planned services or [patient support] programmes"*.

The NHMC has a defined mechanism for manufacturers to engage with the committee for advice about medicines supply via homecare medicines services, including Manufacturer Funded, or associated Patient Support Programmes. Manufacturers are encouraged to seek such engagement at an early stage of development by completing a 'Homecare Service Proposal Form'³ to the fullest extent possible and sent to the NHMC chair for review.

With provision of the above engagement route, the NHMC recommends that its members align with the advice of the National Pharmaceutical Supply Group (NPSG) and do not participate in any Manufacturer sponsored advisory boards.

¹ EoE KPI Data Jun 2019

² <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/nhmc-good-practice-principles-for-the-provision-of-manufacturer-funded-homecare-services/>

³ <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/national-homecare-medicines-committee-nhmc-homecare-service-proposal-hsp-form/>