

Effective Date: January 1, 2019

Retired:

Revised:

Approved by:

Maria F. Lima, Ph.D. Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Research

Subject: Interactions with Vendors and MMC PA Students Policy

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is:

To define expectations and parameters concerning interactions with vendors.

POLICY STATEMENT:

MMC PA students should maintain ethical relationships with vendors. This policy applies to all MMC PA students when they are acting within the course and scope of their role as students and future medical professionals.

DEFINITIONS:

Vendor: any corporation or entity external to the Meharry Medical College which provides or may provide goods or services for administrative or clinical operations.

PROCEDURE:

For the purposes of this policy a vendor refers to any corporation or entity external to the MMC which provides or may provide goods or services for administrative or clinical operations. This includes (but is not limited to): pharmaceutical organizations, home health care agencies, hospice organizations, durable medical equipment providers, laboratories, office supply organizations, consultants, etc.

1. Access - To protect patients, patient care areas and work schedules, access by pharmaceutical and vendor representatives to individual MMC PA students should be restricted to non-patient care areas and nonpublic areas and should take place only by appointment or invitation of the supervising physician.
2. Educational Programs - Presentations, educational programs, and training by industry representatives can provide useful scientific information and training to MMC PA students. MMC PA students may attend such presentations and programs only if they are found to be acceptable by the supervising faculty and/or Clinic Education Director. This does not include presentations that are mainly intended to market the vendor's drugs, materials, or services. Gifts and meals provided in conjunction with educational programs will not be accepted (except as noted in #7 below).

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3. Support of Non-MMC Medical Education Programs – Financial assistance from vendors to support MMC PA student attendance at carefully selected educational conferences is permitted only as unrestricted grants to the Physician Assistant Sciences Program. Decisions regarding student participation at such programs rest with the Program Director. Financial assistance and/or reimbursements may not be paid by vendor directly to the student.
4. Gifts – No gifts shall be accepted from vendors. This includes books, reference manuals, training materials, or promotional objects (such as pens, mugs, or notepads), meals, and recreational activities. Cash or cash equivalents, such as gift certificates, stocks, bonds, or frequent – flyer miles of any amount may not be accepted.
5. Samples and Other Clinical Items – MMC PA students may not accept drug samples or other patient care products from vendors.
6. Recreational Activities – Attendance at industry-provided recreational or entertainment activities is prohibited.
7. Food and Meals - Meals and snacks provided by or paid directly by a vendor may not be accepted by MMC PA students. If in doubt students should ask their course director or appropriate faculty supervisor. Vendor-supported meals may not be provided “off-site” or independent of these approved educational activities.

EXHIBITS: