

# MSD Methodology Statement

## Introduction

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H. (MSD or MSD) believe that interactions between pharmaceutical companies and healthcare professionals have a profound and positive influence on the quality of patient treatment and the value of future research. Recently, there is a growing expectation that such interactions are transparent. As such, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations adopted in 2014 the Code on Disclosure of Transfers of Value from Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Organizations (Code), requiring its members, including MSD, to disclose pre-defined types of transfers of value to healthcare organizations and healthcare professionals on an annual basis. This Methodology Statement defines the relevant types of transfers to be disclosed, which transfers are excluded, and other relevant information to assist the reader understand how MSD collected, organized and reported the disclosed data.

## Definitions

Clinical Research Organization (CRO) – an organization that provides support to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries in the form of research services outsourced on a contract basis. A CRO is not a HCO.

Event – all promotional, scientific or professional meetings, congresses, conferences, symposia, and other similar events (including advisory board meetings, visits to research or manufacturing facilities, and planning, training or investigator meetings for clinical trials and non-interventional studies), organized or sponsored by or on behalf of MSD.

Healthcare Organization (HCO) – any legal person (i) that is a healthcare, medical or scientific organization such as a hospital, clinic, foundation, university or other teaching institution or learned society (but not a patient organization) or ii) through which one or more HCP's provide services.

Healthcare Professional (HCP) - any natural person that is a member of the medical, dental, pharmacy or nursing professions or any other person who as part of their professional activities may prescribe, purchase supply or administer a medicinal product and whose primary practice or principal professional address in Austria. This includes midwives. For clarity, a HCP includes: i) any official or employee of a governmental agency or other organization (whether in the public or private sector) that may prescribe, purchase, supply or administer medicinal products and ii) any employee of MSD whose primary occupation is that of a practicing HCP, but excludes: x) all other employees of MSD and y) a wholesaler or distributor of medicinal products.

Recipients – any HCO or HCP whose primary practice, main professional address or place of incorporation is Austria.

Transfers of Value (ToV's) – direct and indirect transfers of value, whether in cash, in kind or otherwise, made in connection with the development and sale of medicinal products for human use.

A Direct ToV is one made by directly MSD for the benefit of a Recipient.

An Indirect ToV is one made by a third party (such as a contractor, travel agent, partner or affiliate) on behalf of MSD for the benefit of a Recipient where the Recipient knows it is from, or can identify, MSD.

Research and Development ToV's are ToV's to an HCO or HCP related to the planning or conduct of: i) non-clinical studies (as defined in *OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice*); ii) clinical trials (as defined in article 2(a) of Directive 2001/20/EC); and iii) non-interventional studies that are prospective in nature and that involve the collection of patient data.

### **Disclosure's scope**

Excluded ToVs. The following ToV's are expressly excluded under the Code from disclosure: i) those solely related to over-the-counter medicines; ii) are part of ordinary course purchases and sales of medicines (for example, between MSD and a pharmacy); iii) medical samples, investigational compounds and biological samples for study; iv) informational or educational materials and items of medical utility and; v) meals and drinks that remain below the limits set by PHARMIG, the pharmaceutical industry association of Austria.

ToV Recognition Date. ToV's are disclosed on the basis of the date MSD made the ToV, not when the resulting income or benefit was received by the HCO/HCP.

ToV Value. ToV disclosures reflect the actual value or cost provided by MSD and not the resulting income or benefit to the HCO/HCP.

HCO ToV's. The following types of ToV's to HCO's are disclosed by MSD:

- i) donations and grants that support healthcare (including charitable product donations and logistic assistance to people in emergency need);
- ii) contributions to costs related to Events, including sponsorship of HCP's directly or indirectly through HCO's to attend Events, such as:
  - a. registration fees,
  - b. sponsorship agreements with HCO's or with third parties appointed by an HCO to manage an Event (examples include hiring a booth or stand space, acquiring advertising space (in paper, electronic or other format), arranging a satellite symposia at a congress, sponsoring of speakers or faculty, the costs of drinks or meals provided by the HCO if part of an inclusive package, and courses provided by a HCO where MSD does not select the individual HCPs that participate), and
  - c. travel and accommodations; and
- iii) fees for service and consultancy (examples include retrospective non-interventional clinical studies and epidemiological studies). To the extent incidental expenses incurred under a service or consultancy agreement are reimbursed (e.g., travel and accommodation), such ToV is disclosed in the relevant category and not as a fee for service or consultancy.

HCP ToV's. The following types of ToV's to HCP's are disclosed by MSD:

- i) contributions to costs related to Events such as:
  - a. registration fees, and

- b. travel and accommodations (such as costs of flights, trains, car hire, tolls, parking fees, taxis and hotel accommodation); and
- ii) fees for service and consultancy (examples include speakers' fees, speaker training, medical writing, data analysis, development of educational materials, general consulting and advising via advisory boards/expert input fora, fees for participating in market research when the identity of the HCP is known to MSD, and investigator-initiated studies that do not meet the definition of Research & Development ToV's). To the extent incidental expenses incurred under a service or consultancy agreement are reimbursed (e.g., travel and accommodation), such ToV is disclosed in the relevant category and not as a fee for service or consultancy.
- i) If ToV's under point i) of this chapter have been allocated indirectly to HCPs nominated by an HCO, MSD will disclose these ToV's via the HCO. This is according to Article 9.4 last sentence Pharmig Code of Conduct.

ToVs in case of partial attendances or cancellation. Since ToV's are reported on the basis of what MSD paid, and not what the Recipient received, the full amount paid by MSD shall be reported in case of a partial attendance. In case of a HCP cancellation, no ToV will be disclosed.

Cross-border activities. Regardless of which MSD entity contracts with and pays a Recipient, all HCO's or HCP's whose primary practice, main professional address or place of incorporation is in Austria are reported by MSD Austria.

Disclosing entities. This annual disclosure report covers all ToV's made to HCO's and HCP in Austria, whether by Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H. or by its affiliates based in other countries.

### **Specific considerations**

Cubist. On January 21, 2015, the MSD group acquired Cubist Pharmaceuticals, a specialty pharmaceutical company specializing in antibiotics. Cubist was an affiliate member of EFPIA and was aware of the disclosure obligations under the Code. To the extent Cubist made a ToV to a HCO or HCP in [country]. All ToV made relating to a Cubist product, clinical study or public policy effort is reported as a MSD ToV.]

Self-incorporated HCP. Disclosure is made on the Recipient's name. So, a Fee for Service paid to a legal entity owned by a HCP is disclosed under the name of the legal entity (an HCO) and not the HCP's individual name as the HCO is the Recipient of the ToV.

Multi-year agreements. Disclosure is made on the basis of the year the actual ToV's was provided, and not on the basis of a pro rata amount of the intended total ToV under the agreement.

### **Consent management**

Consent collection. Data Protection legislation in Austria requires MSD to obtain the consent of each HCP to disclose their personal information. MSD has made its best effort to obtain such consent so as to be as transparent as possible about the nature and scale of its interactions with HCP's. The means by which MSD

has obtained consent in Austria is by a stand-alone agreement covering all interactions with the HCP for an entire year.

Management of Recipient consent withdrawal. A Recipient has the right to withdraw their consent at any time. If this occurs prior to MSD's publication of the ToV, then the Recipient's ToV's shall be reported on an aggregate basis only with no disclosure of the Recipient's name. If consent is withdrawn by a Recipient after the publication of the relevant year's ToV's, then the Recipient's name and ToV's shall be removed and the corresponding amount of ToV's will be added to the aggregate reporting for the remainder of the 3 year period for which the publication remains available.

Partial consent. In the event an HCP consents to disclosure of only a portion of the ToV's they have received (which is not in the interest of MSD or EFPIA), MSD will disclose the entire amount of the HCP's ToV's in the aggregate without naming the HCP. Partial disclosure under the individual disclosure category would be misleading with respect to the nature and scale of the interaction between MSD and the HCP.

### **Disclosure Form**

Date of publication. MSD publishes the ToV for the preceding calendar year no later than 6 months after the end of the relevant reporting period (for example, ToV's for 2015 are reported no later than June 30, 2016). The information disclosed shall remain available for three (3) years thereafter, subject to individual disclosures being shifted to aggregate disclosure in the event of after-the-fact revocation of consent by the Recipient.

Disclosure platform. MSD provides its annual disclosure via its own web site.

Disclosure language. MSD provides its annual disclosure in English.

### **Disclosure financial data**

Currency and VAT. All disclosed ToV's are reported in local currency and exclusive of VAT ToV's paid in other currencies are converted to local currency at the exchange rate applicable on the date the cost is incurred.