

Ethics Working Group – Principles

A joint Ethics Working Group have been set up by three national trade associations representing manufacturers of medical devices and in vitro diagnostics in Hungary: the Association of Health Technology Suppliers and Medical Device Manufacturers (ETOSZ), the Hungarian In Vitro Diagnostics Association (HIVDA) and the Association of Medical Devices Manufacturers Hungary (AMDM).

The aim of the working group is the rapid implementation of new ethical principles governing the European medical technology industry, in particular the prohibition of direct sponsorship of healthcare professionals. According to this principle industry actors are not allowed to sponsor directly healthcare professionals' (HCP) attendance at third-party educational events, such as medical conferences and congresses.

The essence of the prohibition of direct sponsorship is that companies are no longer allowed to select or influence the selection of specific Healthcare Professional attendees at third-party educational events; to arrange or pay for HCP attendees' travel, accommodation and/or registration directly; or to reimburse the expenses of specific HCP attendees at third-party educational events.

Product and procedure trainings qualify as exceptions to the prohibition.

Third-party educational events are subject to the following general rules:

- Companies will not organise events which include social, sporting and/or leisure activities or other forms of entertainment, nor support such elements where part of third party organised educational events;
- entertainment must be outside of the educational programme schedule and paid for separately by the healthcare professionals;
- entertainment should not dominate or interfere with the overall scientific content of the programme and must be held during times that do not overlap with a scientific session. The entertainment should not be the main attraction of the event;
- the event location and venue should not become the main attraction of the event.

The three associations have always been committed to the transparent, legally and ethically compliant operations of their member companies.

This cooperation aims that the above described principles to be generally and soon adopted and applied in Hungary. For this purpose, the joint Ethics Working Group will inform and educate not only medtech companies but health policy actors, health care professional organizations and conference organizers. In addition, the Working Group will propose recommendations for applying these ethical principles and for handling questionable cases.

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