

MSD Sweden Methodology Statement

Introduction

Merck Sharp & Dohme (Sweden) AB (MSD) believes 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 has been a growing expectation that such interactions are transparent. As such, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations adopted the Code on Disclosure of Transfers of Value from Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare Organizations (Code) in 2014, 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 in understanding how MSD collects, organizes, and reports the disclosed data.

Definitions

Event: All promotional, scientific, or professional meetings, congresses, conferences, symposia, and other similar events (including advisory board meetings, expert input forums, group input 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 or sole trader that performs healthcare services or research or educational services within this field, or an organization with a medical or scientific purpose, except for organizations such as interest organizations, patient associations, patient relatives' organizations, patient advocacy groups, and other patient networks/associations.

Healthcare Professional (HCP): A physician, dentist, pharmacist, nurse, or any other natural person within healthcare or a government agency who has a right to prescribe, purchase, supply, recommend or administer a medicinal product, including employees of a pharmaceutical company whose primary occupation is that of a practicing healthcare professional. All other employees of a pharmaceutical company or employees of a distributor of medicinal products are excluded from the definition of healthcare professionals.

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 an HCO.

Recipient: Any HCO or HCP whose primary practice, main professional address, or place of incorporation is Sweden.

Transfers of Value (ToVs): 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:** Transfer made directly by MSD for the benefit of a Recipient.
- **An Indirect ToV:** Transfer 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 ToVs: ToVs to an HCO or HCP related to the planning or conduct of:

- Non-clinical studies (as defined in OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice).
- Clinical trials.
- Prospective non-interventional studies which include the collection of patient data from or on behalf of healthcare professionals.

Disclosure's Scope

Excluded ToVs: The following ToVs are expressly excluded under the Code from disclosure:

- ToVs that are part of ordinary course purchases and sales of medicines (for example, between MSD and a pharmacy).
- Medical samples, investigational compounds, and biological samples for the study.
- Informational or educational materials and items of medical utility.
- Meals and drinks that remain below the limits set by Läkemedelsindustriföreningen (LIF), the pharmaceutical industry association of Sweden.

ToV Recognition Date: Direct value transfers are reported based on the date when MSD recorded the value transfer, not when it was paid out to the HCO/HCP or when the activity took place. Indirect value transfers concerning travel and accommodation are disclosed on the start date of the Event.

ToV Value: ToV disclosures reflect the actual value or cost paid by MSD to the Recipient after taxes have been deducted (net amount).

HCO ToVs: The following types of ToVs to HCOs are disclosed by MSD:

- Donations and grants that support healthcare (including charitable product donations and logistic assistance to people in emergency need, and investigator-initiated studies that do not meet the definition of Research & Development ToVs).
- Contributions to costs related to Events, such as sponsorship agreements with HCOs 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 formats, arranging a satellite symposia at a congress, sponsoring speakers or faculty, the costs of drinks or meals provided by the HCO if part of an inclusive package, and courses provided by an HCO where MSD does not select the individual HCPs that participate). The income obtained by healthcare organizations or associations via such sponsorships may only cover actual, documented, reasonable and direct costs that are necessary to carry out the professional parts of a meeting.
- Fees for service and consultancy (examples include retrospective non-interventional studies and epidemiological studies, speaker fees, or advisory board participation fees). Other types of fees for service may occur, for instance, medical services within the development or conduct of a patient support program. To the extent incidental expenses incurred under a service or consultancy agreement are reimbursed (e.g., travel and accommodation), such ToVs are disclosed in the category "related expenses" and not as a fee for service or consultancy.

HCP ToVs: The following types of ToVs to HCPs are disclosed by MSD:

- 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 retrospective non-interventional studies). To the extent incidental expenses incurred under a service or consultancy agreement are reimbursed (e.g., travel and accommodation), such ToVs are disclosed in the category "related expenses" and not as a fee for service or consultancy.

Research and Development ToVs will be disclosed on an aggregate country level. This includes ToVs made by CROs on behalf of MSD to HCOs for the conduct of clinical trials.

ToVs in case of partial attendances or cancellations: Since ToVs are reported based on 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 the case of an HCP cancellation, and no ToV has occurred, no ToV will be disclosed.

Cross-border activities: Regardless of which MSD entity contracts with and pays a Recipient, all HCOs, or HCPs whose primary practice, main professional address, or place of incorporation is in Sweden are reported by MSD Sweden in Sweden.

Disclosing entities: This annual disclosure report covers all ToVs made to HCOs and HCPs in Sweden, whether by MSD Sweden or by its affiliates based in other countries. For Events arranged by international organizations (e.g., international congresses), the disclosure will be made by the local MSD entity in the country where the international organization has its primary address, not where the Event took place.

Specific Considerations

HCP Sole-Proprietorship: An HCP Sole Proprietor is considered an HCO.

A fee for Service paid to a self-incorporated HCP is disclosed under the name of the Sole Proprietorship in the HCO section of the Report.

Multi-year agreements: Disclosure is made based on the year the actual ToVs were provided, and not based on a pro-rata amount of the intended total ToV under the agreement.

Non-interventional studies: In those circumstances where MSD is unable, despite its best efforts, to determine whether ToVs made to an HCP by a CRO, on behalf of MSD, are prospective or retrospective in nature, such ToVs are treated as prospective and allocated in the aggregate to Research and Development.

Consent Management

Consent Processing Basis: MSD Sweden AB changed the disclosure processing basis from consent to a so-called legitimate interest (for more information on the concept of legitimate interest, see Article 6 (1) (f) of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679, GDPR)) from the publication of the 2023 benefits. When a legitimate interest has been selected as a processing basis, the partner will no longer be specifically asked to consent to the disclosure of their information.

A healthcare professional is always free to refuse to cooperate if they do not want their information to be published. In addition, the data subject always has the right to object to the processing of his/her data. In this case, the disclosure will not be made in the name of the data subject, but the information will be published in aggregate form so that the individual cannot be identified. The data

subject also has the right to object to the processing of his or her data afterward, in which case the data will be deleted from the public registers without delay.

Disclosure Form

Date of publication: MSD publishes the ToVs for the preceding calendar year no later than 6 months after the end of the relevant reporting period (for example, ToVs for 2024 are reported no later than June 30, 2025).

Published information is available for three (3) years. However, the report will be updated if the healthcare professional objects to data being published. In this case, the benefits paid to the person are combined into a consolidated category and a new report will be published.

Disclosure platform: MSD provides its annual disclosure via a central platform called “Etik – Öppen rapportering av värdeöverföringar” on lif.se, organized by the Swedish Pharmaceutical Industry Association (LIF).

Disclosure language: MSD provides its annual disclosure in the Swedish language.

Disclosure Financial Data

Currency and VAT: All disclosed ToVs are reported in local currency (SEK) and exclusive of VAT except for ToVs for travel and/or lodging that is invoiced for reimbursement by the HCP, which is disclosed inclusive of VAT.

ToVs paid in other currencies are converted to local currency at the exchange rate applicable on the date the cost is incurred.

Indirect ToVs for Travel and accommodation that are received from MSD entities abroad and reported manually to the disclosure database, are converted to local currency at the reporting day's exchange rate (not at the rate going back to the travel date).