



In response to questions about the ABPI Code of Practice this information is for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), aid agencies, charities and organisations receiving medicine donations from UK pharmaceutical companies to support disaster response and global health programmes.

1 What is the ABPI Code?

The [ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry](#) is the self-regulatory framework that governs the promotion of prescription medicines to both the public and health professionals. It sets standards to ensure the pharmaceutical industry in the UK operates in a professional, ethical and transparent manner with patient safety as its main priority.

[The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry](#) (ABPI) established the Code in 1958 and continues to develop it in line with UK and European law and other European and international codes of practice to ensure high standards and compliance are maintained.

The Code is administered by the [Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority](#) (PMCPA).

2 Which companies does the ABPI Code apply to?

The ABPI Code covers pharmaceutical companies promoting medicines for prescribing by health professionals.

All ABPI [members](#) comply with the Code and all companies that are members of either the [European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations](#) (EFPIA) or the [International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations](#) (IFPMA) must comply with local codes, including the ABPI Code in the UK. In addition, companies that are not members of these organisations can also agree to comply with the Code and accept the jurisdiction of the PMCPA.

Most pharmaceutical companies operating in the UK follow the ABPI Code as it covers and extends beyond UK law. Those few companies that do not choose to comply with the Code are covered by law, administered by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA).

Pharmaceutical companies often have their own policies and procedures, many of which go beyond the Code and law, so it is worth speaking to them about this when you start working with them.

There are separate codes, and laws, that apply to companies producing medical devices, over the counter medicines and generic medicines.



3 Is the Code relevant to my organisation?

As an organisation which is working with pharmaceutical companies in relation to donations of medicines it is important that you are aware of and understand the ABPI Code and the requirements which apply to pharmaceutical companies. The Code states:

“Those interacting with industry as individuals or organisations also have a responsibility to ensure that their interactions comply with relevant legal requirements and are asked to follow the Code where relevant and not make requests that are not in accordance with the Code”

4 What elements of the Code should I be particularly aware of?

It is helpful for your organisation to have a broad understanding of the requirements of the Code and ensure that staff working with pharmaceutical companies understand what is and isn't appropriate in relation to the Code and relevant laws.

In relation to product donations and the work you may be undertaking with UK pharmaceutical companies, knowledge of the following clauses of the Code may be particularly beneficial:

- Clause 1 – Scope of Code and Definition of Certain Terms
- Clause 9 – High Standards, Format, Suitability and Causing Offence, Sponsorship
- Clause 11 – Distribution of Material
- Clause 12 – Disguised Promotion
- Clause 18 – Prohibition on Inducements and Inappropriate Payments, the Provision of Items for Patients, health professionals and Other Relevant Decision Makers, Agreement to benefit Patients such as Outcome Agreements and Patient Access Scheme
- Clause 21 – Relationships and Contracts with Certain Organisations
- Clause 24 – Transfers of Value to Health Professionals and Healthcare Organisations
- Clause 26 – Relations with the Public and the Media
- Clause 28 – The Internet and other Digital Platforms

5 Where can I get more information?

For more information about the ABPI Code please speak to the company(ies) you are working with or contact the Prescriptions Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA):



info@pmcpa.org.uk



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www.pmcpa.org.uk