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Physicians and the pharmaceutical industry on the conflict of interests

The Presidium of the Regional Medical Council in Warsaw and the Employers' Union of Innovative Pharmaceutical Companies INFARMA believe that continued cooperation between innovative pharmaceutical companies and the medical environment is a natural element of the healthcare system. Effective exchange of knowledge enables introduction of new and improvement of existing therapies, allows conducting advanced research and resolving the most important health-related challenges. However, such cooperation entails a conflict of interests. Therefore, all contacts between the pharmaceutical industry and medical professions' representatives or healthcare organizations should take place in a way that is transparent, ethical and compliant with the law in force. Reconciliation of interests is the question of responsibility. We should openly reveal all our relationships resulting from such cooperation.

The Presidium of the Regional Medical Council in Warsaw and INFARMA confirm that an effective tool ensuring transparency of the cooperation is universal introduction of a conflict of interests declaration, i.e., the medical environment revealing their relationships with pharmaceutical companies in the area of physicians' education and scientific publications. The organizations recommend the physicians declare their cooperation with pharmaceutical companies in their daily practice, during scientific conference lectures and presentations as well as in their publications in order to allow the addressees to more objectively assess the contents they receive. Such practice is already widespread in numerous EU countries and in the USA.

The Presidium of the Regional Medical Council in Warsaw and INFARMA are deeply convinced that it is a valuable solution, and only the observance of rules on the conflict of interest declaration will effectively allow the public opinion's trust to grow.