

# MSD Methodology Statement

## Introduction

MSD Belgium and MSD Europe Inc. (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 is in Belgium. 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 Belgium.

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 Pharma.be, the pharmaceutical industry association of Belgium.

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's are disclosed on the basis of the date the ToV is posted in MSD's financial system, 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.

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 Belgium are reported by MSD.

Disclosing entities. This annual disclosure report covers all ToV's made to HCO's and HCP in Belgium, whether by MSD Belgium or by MSD Europe Inc. or by its affiliates based in other countries.

### **Specific considerations**

Country unique identifier. In order to ensure disclosure of ToV's are allocated correctly, MSD has assigned a unique identifier to each HCP and HCO. In Belgium, this is based on the company number for HCO's and self-incorporated HCP's and an ID number assigned by the national reimbursement authority or national personal identification number for HCP's.

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 Belgium, 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. Pursuant to the Code of the College of Physicians, a self-incorporated HCP must mention their personal name, legal form of their company and area of specialty in external relations. Thus, the HCP "behind" the company can easily be identified. The Privacy Commission has confirmed that in this case the Privacy Act applies and consent must be obtained from such a HCP for MSD to disclose their ToV's.

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 Belgium 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 Belgium 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 not be removed, however any information (ToV) that was already obtained by MSD, but not yet disclosed will, as from the revocation of the consent, no longer be publicly disclosed on an individual basis. From that moment on, the ToV will be disclosed on an aggregate basis 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.

Disclosure platform. MSD provides its annual disclosure via a central platform called BeTransparent.be organized by Mdeon.

Disclosure language. MSD provides its annual disclosure in French, Dutch and 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.