

Ovarian Cancer Action's Policy on Collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Industry

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Ovarian Cancer Action is grateful for the contributions of our donors and supporters. Their generosity allows us to offer scientific and educational programs that make a difference in cancer care.
- 1.2 To maintain the independence of Ovarian Cancer Action's research and awareness programmes, and to help our donors meet their own rigorous compliance standards, Ovarian Cancer Action have policies and procedures in place.
- 1.3 Pharmaceutical companies are significant stakeholders in the cancer community as their products are integral to most cancer treatments. The effectiveness, safety, side effects and cost of those products are of great interest to cancer consumers.
- 1.4 Ovarian Cancer Action's key stakeholders and in particular patients and survivors are very interested in information about these products, as well as any clinical trials for which they may be eligible.
- 1.5 Ovarian Cancer Action can provide important information to pharmaceutical companies regarding the experience and needs of women with ovarian cancer.
- 1.6 Ovarian Cancer Action recognises the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and relationship with pharmaceutical companies that are producing products which may lead to benefits for ovarian cancer consumers.

2 Principles

- 2.1 Ovarian Cancer Action will always act according to our own priorities, issues and timelines.
- 2.2 Ovarian Cancer Action will engage in dialogue with pharmaceutical companies to benefit our key stakeholders, patients and survivors.
- 2.3 Ovarian Cancer Action is committed to total transparency in all dealings with pharmaceutical companies.
- 2.4 Ovarian Cancer Action will not endorse individual pharmaceutical cancer products.
- 2.5 Ovarian Cancer Action will not endorse or develop a special relationship with an individual pharmaceutical company.

3 Definition

- 3.1 The definition of a Pharmaceutical company used in this policy is as follows:
Developer, manufacturer and/or distributor of therapeutic products to be used in the prevention, treatment or diagnosis of human illnesses.

3.2 Medical equipment definition: tools and machines to be used in the treatment or diagnosis of human illness (in particular cancer).

4 Policy

4.1 No pharmaceutical company will have any direct or indirect input into or influence over any of Ovarian Cancer Action's patient, awareness, advocacy, research or other organisational programs and activities.

4.2 Ovarian Cancer Action will consider funding from pharmaceutical companies for appropriate core or non-core activities of awareness raising, support, education and advocacy and research on a case by case basis.

4.3 Ovarian Cancer Action will consider funding from any third parties for appropriate core or non-core activities where funds for activities are provided by pharmaceutical companies on a case by case basis.

4.4 Ovarian Cancer Action will not accept direct pharmaceutical company support for specific programmes. However, support of Ovarian Cancer Action and unrestricted contributions may provide indirect support for programmes such as symptoms awareness hereditary ovarian cancer awareness or scientific research.

4.5 Ovarian Cancer Action may approach pharmaceutical companies for funding for appropriate core or non-core activities but will only receive funds on the basis that this does not imply an endorsement of product.

4.6 Any offer of funding by a pharmaceutical company that is £20,000 or over must be presented to and approved by the Board of Directors.

4.7 Any offer of funding by a pharmaceutical company up to £20,000 must be reported to the Board of Directors but can be approved by the charity's Chief Executive.

4.8 Ovarian Cancer Action will consider invitations to attend pharmaceutical company sponsored conferences, meetings and events on the basis that that these meetings are a source of information relevant to Ovarian Cancer Action's work.

4.9 People representing Ovarian Cancer Action (Board members, Management and all Staff) cannot endorse a product or accept payment for their services from a pharmaceutical company.

4.9.1 Ovarian Cancer Action staff may review relevant patient information material for pharmaceutical companies but may not receive any payment for these services except for any minor out of pocket expenses as approved by the Chief Executive.

4.9.2 Ovarian Cancer Action staff may attend briefings, meetings or seminars where information on new products and treatment protocols are presented however Ovarian Cancer Action will not endorse any product or have its name used to promote these products.

4.10 The Chief Executive is required to approve the acceptance of any offer of hospitality through a pharmaceutical company, including overseas travel and accommodation. The charity's Board will be notified of this decision at the next meeting.

4.11 The Chief Executive will provide an annual report to the Ovarian Cancer Action Board in March each year regarding the organisation's engagement with pharmaceutical companies and compliance with the policy during that period.

5 Communication & Acknowledgement

5.1 The Ovarian Cancer Action Policy on Collaboration with Pharmaceutical Companies will be made public available via www.ovarian.org.uk

5.2 All funding received by Ovarian Cancer Action from pharmaceutical companies whether for core or non-core activities will be declared in Ovarian Cancer Action's Annual Report.

5.3 Ovarian Cancer Action's logo or information and resources cannot be used by any pharmaceutical company to promote a product.

5.4 Ovarian Cancer Action will not agree to its name or logo appearing in any pharmaceutical company materials or communications without prior approval of the Chief Executive.

5.5 Any pharmaceutical company wishing to acknowledge Ovarian Cancer Action's involvement in the development of patient information material, including the use of our logo, must first obtain written permission from Ovarian Cancer Action and Ovarian Cancer Action must approve a proof version prior to publication. This requirement will not apply in the case of any reporting required by law.

5.6 Ovarian Cancer Action will not include references to a pharmaceutical company on any materials provided to patients or in any other external communications without express prior approval of the Chief Executive.

5.7 Any information produced by pharmaceutical companies relevant to consumers provided to Ovarian Cancer Action will only be included on our website or in any of our communications under our own editorial control.

5.8 Ovarian Cancer Action will not include any links from our website to the website of any pharmaceutical company and will not include pharmaceutical company logos on Ovarian Cancer Action's website.

5.9 OCA will not be required to provide comment or support to media releases and will review any such request to do so on a case by case basis where we believe it is in line with our charitable objectives.

5.10 Any funding from pharmaceutical companies is conditional on Ovarian Cancer Action and the pharmaceutical company signing an agreement which includes or reflects the terms and conditions stated in this Policy.