



Disclosure UK

Talking about Transparency

Updated: October 2021

What is Disclosure UK?

- Disclosure UK is an online, public searchable database that publishes certain payments and benefits in kind – known as transfers of value (ToV) – made to healthcare professionals (HCPs), other relevant decision makers (ORDMs), and healthcare organisations (HCOs) by the pharmaceutical industry in the UK.
- It is designed to further increase the transparency of the important relationships between the pharmaceutical industry and the people it works with.
- It is part of a Europe-wide, pharmaceutical industry-led initiative, laid out in the [European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations \(EFPIA\) Code of Practice](#) and the [ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry](#).
- Disclosure UK was launched in June 2016 and is updated annually.



What does it show?



Annual data publications on Disclosure UK cover the key areas of collaboration between the pharmaceutical industry and HCPs, which includes:

- participation in advisory boards
- speaking at or chairing meetings
- working with and advising doctors and scientists in pharmaceutical companies
- speaking at conferences and symposia
- attending and contributing to national and international conferences
- participating in medical education and training funded by pharmaceutical companies.



It also covers ToVs provided to HCOs, which includes:

- the provision of grants and donations
- the sponsorship of events for the provision of medical education to HCPs.



In addition, it covers the total amount that pharmaceutical companies provide annually on research and development activities (the planning and conduct of certain clinical trials).

Patient organisation gateway



- Alongside searchable information about relationships with HCPs, ORDMs and HCOs, Disclosure UK also includes a ‘gateway’ to information about the pharmaceutical industry’s collaborations with another key group: **patient organisations (POs)**
- Pharmaceutical companies have been disclosing certain information about their relationships with POs since 2006 on their own websites as a requirement of the ABPI Code of Practice
- The gateway was launched in 2021 to increase the accessibility of this information and provides a list of links to individual company websites and their published PO information
- For more information about the PO gateway, see [Patient organisation gateway FAQs](#)

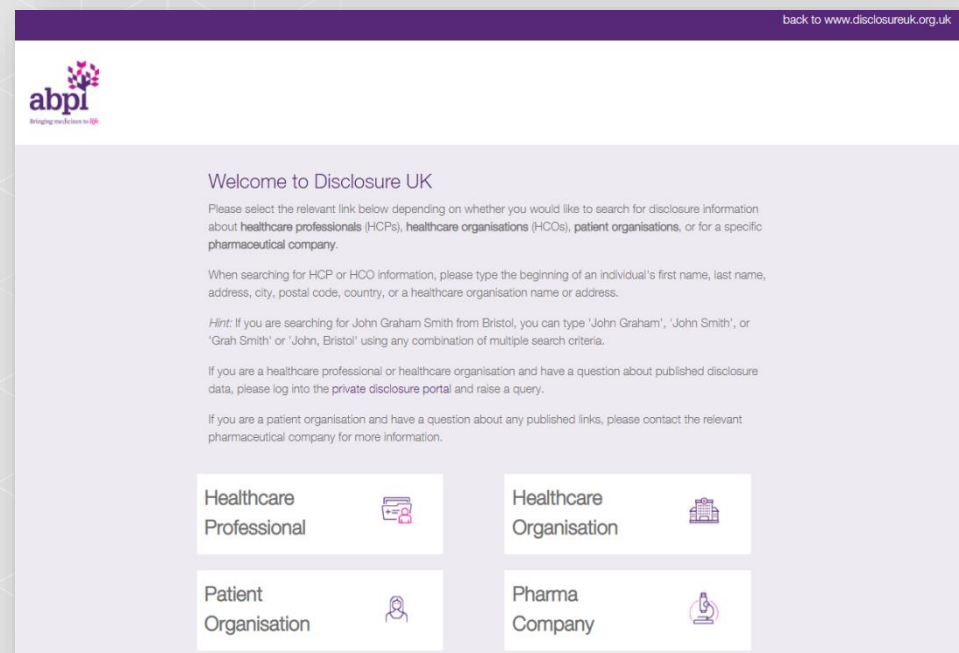
How does it work?

Data for the previous calendar year is published on Disclosure UK at the end of June, annually. The database is freely available online www.disclosureuk.org.uk and can be searched using many terms including:

- HCP name or practicing address
- HCO name or address
- Pharmaceutical company name

OR

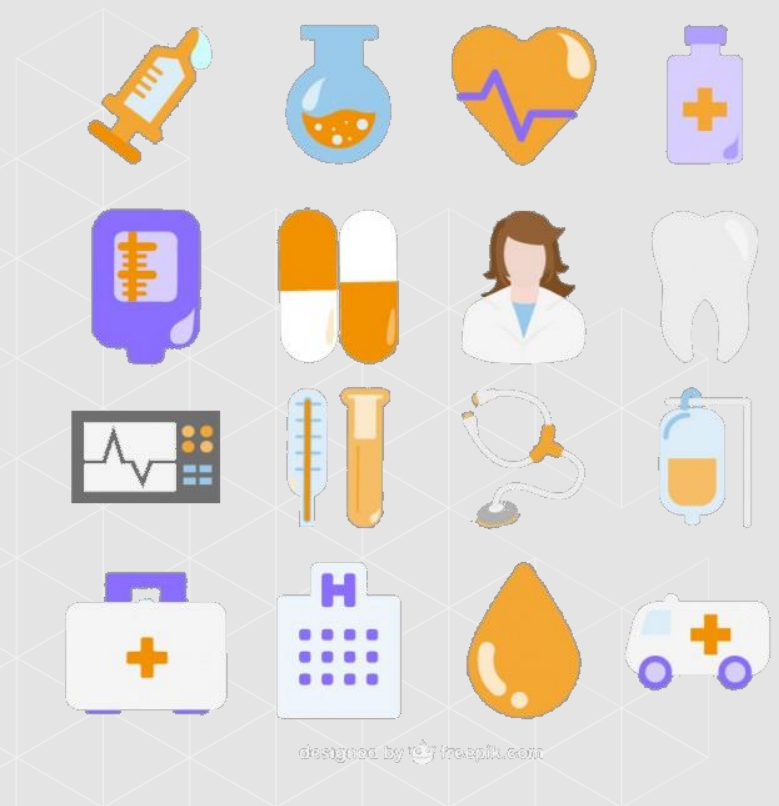
- Visit the PO gateway



Why do we work with HCPs?


We work with doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other HCPs in several ways – all **focused on the development and delivery of life-changing and life-saving medicines to improve treatment for patients, helping them live healthier lives.**

A proportion of this work involves collaborating with HCPs whose extensive expertise and experience on the front-line of patient care can support improvements in medicines development. Some of the work involves educating HCPs on the latest medical innovations and developments so HCPs have the most up-to-date information when making treatment decisions with patients.




Who benefits from this?


Sharing knowledge is at the heart of our interactions with HCPs and we all benefit from working together:

A stylized illustration of a multi-story hospital building with blue and white facades.

Pharmaceutical companies shape their future research programmes based on expert opinion. Understanding unmet medical needs and how a medicine fits into the patient pathway helps companies provide the right information, education and training, to support the introduction of a new medicine, and ensure the best outcomes for appropriate patients.

A stylized illustration of a male doctor with a stethoscope around his neck, wearing a white lab coat.


Doctors, nurses and other HCPs benefit from sharing ideas and learning from colleagues, through building their own understanding of the science behind new medicines and how they relate to patient need.

A stylized illustration of a male patient wearing a blue and white patterned hospital gown.

Patients and their families are the ultimate beneficiaries of the interaction between HCPs and the industry, through advancements in clinical practice and patient care and the development of new, innovative medicines and by having HCPs who understand how to choose the right medicine for the right patient.

What do HCPs think?

The majority of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and hospital specialists agree that **transfers of value from pharmaceutical companies to individual HCPs should be transparent and publicly available.**

A stylized icon of a female doctor with brown hair, wearing a blue stethoscope and a white lab coat.

A poll of more than 500 UK HCPs shows that **87% believe payments from pharmaceutical companies to individually named healthcare professionals should be transparent**, with around two thirds (64%) saying that this information should be publicly declared.

A further two thirds (64%) believe this should be declared on a single, publicly searchable, central database*.



* <http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/abpi-public-disclosure-of-payments-from-pharmaceutical-companies-to-hcps/>, accessed February 2017

Step Up to Disclosure UK

Under UK privacy laws, pharmaceutical companies may ask HCPs and ORDMs for consent to include named information on the Disclosure UK database.

In 2020, the ABPI published a leaflet for HCPs and ORDMs encouraging agreement to be named on the Disclosure UK database. The leaflet is co-branded with:

- The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges,
- The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine,
- The Royal Pharmaceutical Society,
- Welsh Government



...and endorsed by NHS England and the General Medical Council

Download the leaflet here
[English](#) / [Cymraeg](#)

What does the NHS think?

NHS England supports the development of Disclosure UK in bringing greater transparency to the relationships between HCPs, ORDMs, HCOs and industry.

In its most recent guidance* to staff and organisations on managing conflicts of interest the NHSE suggests that:

*...“organisations should seek to ensure that staff who are subject to wider transparency initiatives such as the ABPI **Disclosure UK** scheme are aware of and comply with them”...*



Managing Conflicts of Interest in the NHS

Guidance for staff and organisations

Publications Gateway Reference: 06419

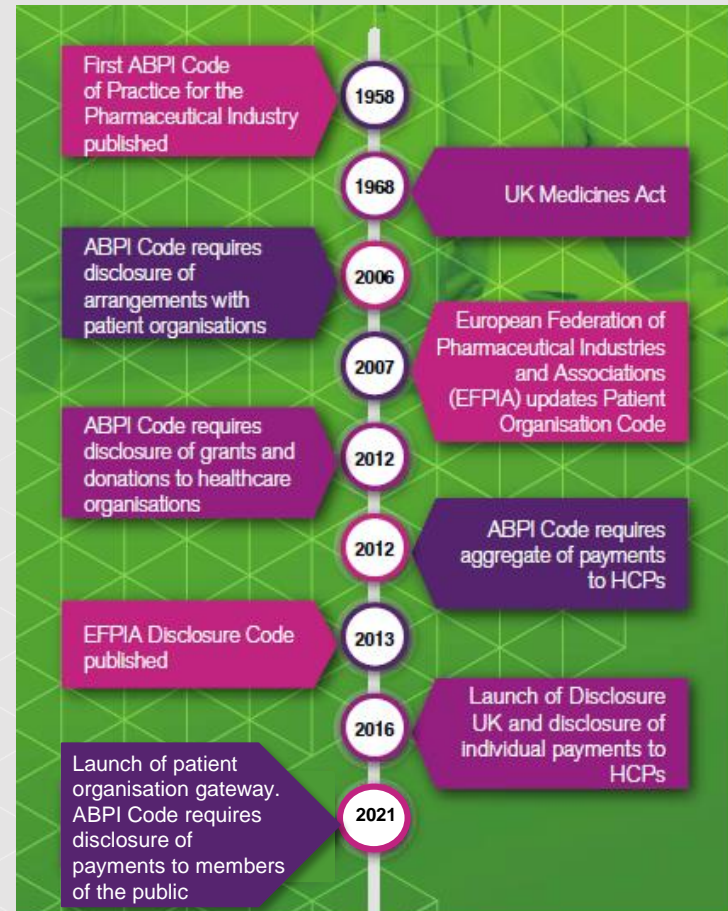


* <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/guidance-managing-conflicts-of-interest-nhs.pdf>, accessed February 2017

History of disclosure in the UK

The UK pharmaceutical industry has a long history of openness about its collaborations with HCPs, ORDMs, HCOs and patient organisations, dating back to the introduction of the first ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry published in 1958.

The publication of data on Disclosure UK in 2016 was a milestone step in this journey towards greater transparency about our relationships.



Further help



If you would like any further help in talking about transparency the Disclosure UK team is available to support you.



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Or visit www.disclosureuk.org.uk

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