

## **Working with Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Companies**

### **Introduction**

The British Sarcoma Group (BSG) recognises the importance of working collaboratively with all stakeholders with an interest in sarcoma. We acknowledge that support from pharmaceutical companies is an important resource, but at the same time we recognise that such partnerships need to be fully transparent. This policy sets out the framework and principles behind BSG UK's relationship with the pharmaceutical industry.

Having such a policy aims to safeguard the reputation of both the association and the pharmaceutical companies concerned and enables all parties to work together collaboratively.

### **Core principles**

BSG works with a range of pharmaceutical companies that have an interest in sarcoma. In such a small field as sarcoma, we believe it is important to maintain cooperative relationships with pharmaceutical companies that manufacture and market drugs and other treatments for sarcoma as well as medical device companies who produce devices used in the treatment and rehabilitation of sarcoma patients. However, we do not allow these companies to influence our strategic direction, activities or the content of our literature.

Where possible, BSG seeks to receive support from more than one pharmaceutical company for each project and service development. This is to help prevent accusations of favouritism towards a particular company and protect our impartiality.

The Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2016 sets out the obligations of the pharmaceutical companies when working with patient organisations. BSG is aware of these guidelines and will ensure that both parties in any agreement work to fulfil these obligations.

BSG will make public all partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry through our website and in our annual report.

### **Specific principles**

1. It is imperative that BSG's information about sarcoma retains its independence and is not influenced in any way by the acceptance of pharmaceutical sponsorship.
2. In accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018, BSG will not, under any circumstances, disclose any confidential information regarding its service users or supporters to pharmaceutical companies or third-party organisations working on behalf of a pharmaceutical company.
3. No persons acting in the name of BSG can accept a personal donation from a pharmaceutical company. Any donation offered to a person(s) who are acting in the name of BSG must instead be made directly to the association and will consequently be governed by the terms of this policy.

### **Use of BSG's name, logo and other publicity**

1. BSG's name must not be used without prior consultation and written agreement by the association.

2. Written approval must be sought for any copy produced which refers to a joint initiative between the association and one or more pharmaceutical companies.
3. BSG's logo must not be used without the prior, written approval of the president, and must be supplied by BSG.
4. Media releases that refer to BSG must have prior written consent and approval from BSG's president.
5. BSG will work with PR, advertising and marketing agencies employed by pharmaceutical companies once a joint venture is in progress.

#### **Information and Publications**

1. BSG will not permit a pharmaceutical company to influence the content of its publications and information.
2. To ensure that BSG is not perceived to be permitting a pharmaceutical company to influence the content of its publications, the association will not, under any circumstances, accept funding from a pharmaceutical company for the production of literature relating to a specific treatment or drug.
3. BSG will retain editorial control over all publications and printed materials sponsored by a pharmaceutical company or companies and will maintain copyright.

#### **Written agreements**

1. BSG's partnerships with pharmaceutical companies will be codified in written agreements, in line with the Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2016.
2. Written agreements will set out exactly what has been approved. This will include any process of reporting back to the company, or any other obligations, which should be agreed with the pharmaceutical company during the planning stages of the project.

#### **Transparency**

1. BSG is committed to publicising all joint ventures between the association and the pharmaceutical industry in line with the Code of Conduct for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2016. Details of these partnerships will be published on the association's website and in the annual report.

Approved: May 2019 by Board of Trustees

Date for review: May 2021