

## Working with the pharmaceutical industry

January 2023

### 1. Purpose

The DAFNE Executive Board (the Board) seeks to uphold our reputation for integrity, independence, impartiality, and transparency in all we do. Policies to govern relationships with the pharmaceutical industry are provided by our hosting organisation, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHCFT).

- PP17: Fraud bribery and corruption policy and response plan
- PP18: Standards of Business conduct and conflict of interest policy
- RMP41: Supplier interface policy

The purpose of this position statement is to demonstrate that the Board's strategic activities are not influenced by the pharmaceutical industry and to provide clear guidance about how the Board works with the pharmaceutical industry in the best interests of adults affected by type 1 diabetes.

This position statement will safeguard the reputation of both the Board and the pharmaceutical companies concerned and enable all parties to work together collaboratively to the overall benefit of people affected by type 1 diabetes.

### 2. Summary

The Board has a history of working with a range of pharmaceutical companies that have an interest in diabetes. We believe it is important to maintain cooperative relationships with pharmaceutical and medical device companies that manufacture and market devices, drugs, and other treatments for diabetes, but under no circumstances will we permit these companies to influence our strategic direction, activities, or the content of our literature.

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

The following content provides detailed guidance about how the Board and pharmaceutical and medical device companies work together.

### 3. Guiding principles

The Board's guidelines for working with the pharmaceutical and medical device industry are based upon the following core principles:

- Equality and impartiality
- Independence and integrity
- Openness and transparency

#### **4. Partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry equality and impartiality**

4.1. The Board will not enter a relationship designed to give one company obvious competitive advantage over another. Where possible we favour the use of funding consortia, based on two or more companies working together. However, the Board will enter targeted strategic partnerships with individual companies if it is deemed to be in the best interest of adults with diabetes and meets the conditions set out in this document.

#### **Independence and integrity**

- 4.2. To safeguard the Board's independence, funding from pharmaceutical and medical device companies will not exceed sixteen per cent of the DAFNE programme total annual income; this percentage will be reviewed annually.
- 4.3. The Board will not accept support from companies for activities which lie outside the Board's agreed strategy for the given period. This will ensure that the strategic objectives of the Board are guided by the best interests of DAFNE and are not perceived to be being influenced by the pharmaceutical and medical device industry.
- 4.4. It is imperative that the high-quality information, events, and meetings provided by the Board are not influenced in any way by the acceptance of pharmaceutical sponsorship. The Board will withdraw from any initiative that risk jeopardising this independent stance.
- 4.5. The Board will not, under any circumstances, accept support from pharmaceutical companies that might be perceived as permitting the industry to influence the Board's strategic direction or activities. All decisions about the Board's strategic direction and activities will be judged solely in the best interests of DAFNE and adults affected by type 1 diabetes.
- 4.6. The Board will not embark on, or continue with, any sponsorship arrangement or collaborative venture that might damage its reputation.

#### **Openness and Transparency**

- 4.7. The Board will make every effort to ensure compliance with the sponsorship conditions of the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry. The Board will make public all partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry through our website.
- 4.8. The Board will accept financial support from one or more pharmaceuticals companies when the following conditions are met:
- i. There are strong grounds for believing that a targeted partnership will result in benefit to DAFNE, and adults affected by type 1 diabetes.
  - ii. The Board, taking appropriate advice from relevant sources, is satisfied that no adverse publicity will accrue from accepting such support.
  - iii. There is no attempt on the part of the company or companies to influence the Board strategic direction, actions, or activities either explicitly or implicitly.

## **5. Guidelines for working together**

- 5.1. When working on a joint initiative, it is helpful if a single point of contact is identified within the company concerned to liaise with a named contact at the Board.
- 5.2. Relationships with pharmaceutical companies will be managed by the National Director, on behalf of the Board.
- 5.3. No persons acting in the name of the Board can accept a personal donation from a pharmaceutical company. Any donation offered to a person(s) who are acting in the name of DAFNE, must instead be made directly to the Board and will consequently be governed by the terms of this position statement and NHCFT policies and procedures.

### **Information and publications**

- 5.4. The Board will not permit a pharmaceutical company to influence the content of its publications, events, meetings, and information.
- 5.5. The Board will retain full editorial control over all publications and printed materials sponsored by a pharmaceutical company or companies and will maintain copyright.

### **Product endorsement**

- 5.6. The Board will not endorse, nor put itself in a position where it might be perceived to be endorsing or promoting a particular treatment or product, other than the DAFNE programme.
- 5.7. When pharmaceutical company sponsorship is accepted, the Board will ensure that an appropriate non-endorsement statement is included in any public expression of that sponsorship.

### **Written agreements**

- 5.8. All the Board's partnerships with pharmaceutical companies will be codified in written agreements, in line with the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry. The Board will ensure that for each relationship the ABPI Code of Practice is satisfied.
- 5.9. Written agreements should set out exactly what has been agreed, including funding in relation to every significant activity or ongoing relationship. This should include any process of reporting back to the company, or any other obligations expected of the Board.