

Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Foundation Announcement Code of Conduct and Measures to Manage Conflict of Interest

The Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Foundation (HITAF), hereinafter referred to as 'the Foundation,' is established to develop health technology assessment (HTA) system, conduct HTA, manage knowledge with the aim to translate research into policy impact, and communicate with stakeholders. To achieve the goals transparently and with optimal benefits to health systems and the public, the Foundation issues the code of conduct and measures to manage conflict of interest, as follows.

1. Definition:

- 1.1. Conflict of interest (COI) is any interest, personal or related to their allies, that may hinder an individual's ability to maintain objectivity and independence on a given matter. Examples of such interests include contributions received which may be in cash or in kind, for example, investments into stocks and shares, gifts, food, accommodation, services, etc.
- 1.2. The private sector includes individuals, organisations, or legal entities who operate with the objective of generating profit.
- 1.3. Not-for-profit private sector includes individuals, organisations, or legal entities who operate with the objective of achieving public good or the benefit of its members and not to generate profit.
- 1.4. Staff are Foundation employees who are remunerated monthly or those who are contracted and legally bound by this policy.

2. The Foundation and its staff do not accept funding and other benefits, either in cash or in kind, from private sectors who are associated with the health or other technologies that are being evaluated or with a prospect of being evaluated by the Foundation in the foreseeable future.

3. All staff must conform to the following practice:
 - 3.1. All staff must complete the COI Declaration form and submit it to the Foundation annually before a task can be assigned to the staff.
 - 3.2. In the case that staff have conflicting interest arising from endeavours outside of the Foundation duties and responsibilities but may affect the Foundation's operation, the Foundation may enforce one of the following measures to manage the conflict of interest: (1) allow the staff to fully participate in the affected operations with full disclosure of the conflicting interests to the public; (2) restrict participation of the staff in some of the affected operations; (3) restrict all participation of the staff in the affected operations.
 - 3.3. Staff may invite the private sector to attend relevant stakeholder meetings hosted as a part of the technology evaluation and consultation process that are organised by the Foundation. However, to avoid discrimination and bias, the Foundation will direct such invitations to associations, societies, or other types of networks of private sectors as the primary approach.
 - 3.4. Staff may attend and participate in meetings, seminars, trainings, or other activities hosted or supported by private sectors for the purpose of knowledge sharing and building capacity bilaterally. However, such attendance and participation will be considered by the Foundation on a case-by-case basis, the decision on which shall be guided by the core vision and mission of the Foundation. The staff cannot accept any benefits from private sectors, as specified in 2.



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Secretary General, Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Program Foundation

29 May 2023