FDA CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICIES[1]

Financial Disclosure Requirements.

Under the applicable regulations, an applicant is required to submit to FDA a list of all clinical investigators who conducted covered clinical studies and to identify those who are full-time or part-time employees of the sponsor of each covered study (21 CFR § 54.4). Under 21 CFR §§ 312.53(c), 812.20(b)(5) and 812.43(c), a sponsor is required to obtain clinical investigator financial information before allowing the clinical investigator to participate in a covered clinical study. Under 21 CFR § 54.4(b), each clinical investigator who is not a full-time or part-time employee of the sponsor of the covered clinical study is required to provide the sponsor with sufficient accurate financial information to allow for complete disclosure or certification and to update this information if any relevant changes occur during the study and for one year following its completion.

Definitions.

Clinical Investigator – For purposes of part 54, "clinical investigator" means a "listed or identified investigator or subinvestigator who is directly involved in the treatment or evaluation of research subjects," including the spouse and each dependent child of the investigator or subinvestigator. Clinical investigators are included in the definition even if they did not participate for the entire length of the study. If a clinical investigator did not participate in the entire study, information collected should be for the period of time he or she participated in the study and for one year following the end of his or her participation.

Covered clinical study – The part 54 regulations define "covered clinical study" to mean "any study of a drug or device in humans submitted in a marketing application or reclassification petition subject to this part that the applicant or FDA relies on to establish that the product is effective (including studies that show equivalence to an effective product) or any study in which a single investigator makes a significant contribution to the demonstration of safety. This would, in general, not include phase 1 tolerance studies or pharmacokinetic studies, most clinical pharmacology studies (unless they are critical to an efficacy determination), large open safety studies conducted at multiple sites, treatment protocols and parallel track protocols."

Applicant – "Applicant" means the party who submits a marketing application to FDA for approval of a drug, device or biologic product or who submits a reclassification petition. The applicant is responsible for submitting the required certification and disclosure statements.

[1] A full copy of this document can be accessed here:
Financial Disclosure by Clinical Investigators | FDA

Disclosable Financial Interests and Arrangements.

The financial interests, arrangements, and payments that must be disclosed (referred to herein as "disclosable financial interests and arrangements") are described below. Note that the dollar amounts that trigger reporting are the combined financial interests of the investigator, spouse, and dependent children.

1. Any compensation made to the investigator by any sponsor of the covered clinical study in which the value of compensation could be affected by study outcome.

2. A proprietary interest in the tested product including, but not limited to, a patent, trademark, copyright or licensing agreement.

3. Any equity interest in any sponsor of the covered clinical study, i.e., any ownership interest, stock options, or other financial interest whose value cannot be readily determined through reference to public prices. The requirement applies to interests held during the time the clinical investigator is carrying out the study and for one year following completion of the study.

4. Any equity interest in any sponsor of the covered study if the sponsor is a publicly held company and the interest exceeds $50,000 in value. The requirement applies to interests held during the time the clinical investigator is carrying out the study and for one year following completion of the study.

5. Significant payments of other sorts (SPOOS) are payments that have a cumulative monetary value of $25,000 or more and are made by any sponsor of a covered study to the investigator or the investigator's institution during the time the clinical investigator is carrying out the study and for one year following completion of the study. This would include payments that support activities of the investigator (e.g., a grant to the investigator or to the institution to fund the investigator's ongoing research or compensation in the form of equipment), exclusive of the costs of conducting the clinical study or other clinical studies, or to provide other reimbursements such as retainers for ongoing consultation or honoraria.

Agency Actions.

The agency may refuse to file a marketing application that does not contain the financial information required by 21 CFR part 54 or a certification by the applicant that the applicant has acted with due diligence to obtain the information but was unable to do so stating a sufficient reason.

If FDA determines that the financial interests or arrangements of any clinical investigator raise a serious question about the integrity of the data, FDA will take any action it deems necessary to ensure the reliability of the data including:

1. Initiating agency audits of the data derived from the clinical investigator in question;

2. Requesting that the applicant submit further analyses of data, e.g., to evaluate the effect of the clinical investigator's data on the overall study outcome;

3. Requesting that the applicant conduct additional independent studies to confirm the results of the questioned study; and

4. Refusing to treat the covered clinical study as providing data that can be the basis for an agency action.