

Conflict of Interests Policy

Are you taking part in an APC, County Durham and Darlington Drug and Therapeutics Clinical Advisory Group, or Formulary Sub-Group meeting?

Do you have a conflict of interest you need to declare?

If you are taking part in a meeting of the County Durham & Darlington Area Prescribing Committee or one of its sub-groups, you must consider whether or not you have any interests that could conflict with your role. In addition all authors of evaluation reports, those commenting on a report, those appealing against or supporting any County Durham & Darlington Area Prescribing Committee review will also be expected to declare any conflict of interests.

All County Durham & Darlington Area Prescribing Committee and its sub-group members will be expected to complete the attached form on an annual basis and update the chair on any potential conflicts of interest at each meeting.

The following charts gives an overview of what may constitute a conflict of interest Please note this is just a general guide and if you are unsure as to whether you have a conflict of interest please contact the APC professional secretary who will be able to offer advice.

Do you have a personal pecuniary interest?

Where an individual may financially benefit from the consequences of a decision, or where an individual has benefitted financially from organisations or companies likely to benefit.

For example:

1. Where an individual is, or is employed by a provider of services
2. Where an individual is self- employed or has part-time work outside of the NHS, which may conflict with APC business
3. Where an individual has been a paid adviser to a healthcare or pharmaceutical company, where the APC may make recommendations about their products or services.
4. Any shareholdings (apart from unit trusts where the fund manager has full discretion as to its composition) or other beneficial interests

You must declare this interest.

If the payment relates specifically to the product or service under review, you may have to withdraw.

Do you have a personal family interest? (Indirect pecuniary interest)

In the last 12 months, has a member of your family received, or do they plan to receive, a financial payment or other benefit from the healthcare industry? This could include:

- holding a directorship, or other paid position
- carrying out consultancy or fee paid work
- having shareholdings or other beneficial interests
- receiving expenses and hospitality over and above what would be reasonably expected to attend meetings and conferences

You must declare this interest.

If the payment relates specifically to the product or service under review, you may have to withdraw from the vote (Chairs discretion)

Do you have a non-pecuniary interest?

Where an individual holds a non-remunerated or not-for profit interest in an organisation, that will benefit from the consequences of a commissioning decision. For example:

1. Where an individual is a trustee of a voluntary provider that is bidding for a contract.
2. Where an individual is, or has a family member likely to be affected personally by the decision made e.g. has a medical condition which is affected by a APC recommendation – this information may not be published at the Chair's discretion.
3. Where an individual has attended an educational meeting, training session or conference which is sponsored by multiple healthcare or pharmaceutical companies where APC may make recommendations about their products or services.

You must declare this interest.

You will still be able to participate, unless the chair decides otherwise.

Do you have a personal non-pecuniary interest?

1. Where an individual has expressed a clear opinion on the matter under consideration which has been:
 - reached as a conclusion of a research project
 - and/or expressed as a public statement.
2. Or where an individual is a member of a professional organisation or advocacy group with a direct interest in the matter under consideration.
3. Fellowship endowed by the healthcare industry
4. Or where an individual may enjoy a qualitative benefit from the consequence of a commissioning decision which cannot be given a monetary value.
5. Or any other reason where an individual may be considered to be biased.

You must declare this interest.

You will still be able to participate, unless the chair decides otherwise.

Please note your annual declaration may be made publicly available

Declaration of Interests Form

Personal details	
Print Name:	
Position:	
Employing organisation	
Category of interest	Details
Direct pecuniary interests	
Personal Family Interests (Indirect pecuniary interests)	
Non-pecuniary interests	
Non-pecuniary personal benefits	
Any other relevant area(s) of interest:	

Where an individual is closely related to, or in a relationship, including friendship, with an individual in the above categories, this should be declared above.

I declare that the information I have provided above is true and accurate.

Signed: **Date:**

If in doubt, the individual concerned should assume that a potential conflict of interest exists. In doing so the Chair will take account of the relevance and significance of the declared interest and appropriate action agreed and recorded. It is the responsibility of the Individual to declare any new or changed interests as soon as practically possible. All declarations will be considered lapsed on year after declaration if one off interests.

This information will be held by the secretary of the County Durham and Darlington Area Prescribing Committee. This information may be held in both manual and computer form and may include data covered by Section 2 of the Data Protection Act 1998.