

Clarification on Sponsorship of Health Professional and Scientific Meetings

The purpose of this online consultation is to gather relevant information from affected stakeholders and civil society to ensure the clarification is fit-for-purpose, acceptable and feasible, and to identify potential unintended consequences of this clarification for the implementation of WHO Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children welcomed by the 69th World Health Assembly.

<https://apps.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/manual-ending-inappropriate-promotion-food/en/index.html>

https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_R9-en.pdf



* Required

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6. Is the meaning of the document clear? *

☐

Yes

☒

No (add comments below)

7. Please explain what is unclear and / or make suggestions for making it clearer.

It does not cover all products that fall within the scope of the Code.
Selling conference space generates income for the organisation that organises a conference
- this is a form of sponsorship.

8. Is there some type of sponsorship that is not discussed in the document but should be? *

☐

Yes (add comments below)

☒

No

9. Please explain what type of sponsorship is not discussed in the document but should be?

Conference sponsoring by BMS producers includes paying attendees' registration fees, travel or accommodation to attendants. This is not covered and should be included. Foundations related to BMS supplies should be included in addition to "manufacturers and distributors."

10. Are there setting specific or contextual issues that should be considered? *

☒ Yes (add comments below)

☐ No

11. Please explain the setting specific or contextual issues that should be considered and describe how the content could be changed to accommodate them.

As with pharmaceutical sponsorship, ethical consideration all sponsorships bear the same risks of influence to HP and should be refused/avoided (no free lunch organisation, as an example and not only in the references)

12. Are there implication for implementation or feasibility that we should consider?

*

☒ Yes (add comments below)

☐ No

13. Please describe the implications for implementation or feasibility that we should consider.

Framing it somewhere in a general ethical view of HP would not single out BF and the Code. Organising conferences without BMS sponsors is feasible and has been demonstrated by some conference organisers. I have attended many large international conferences on maternal-child health, birth and breastfeeding that were free of Industry sponsorship.

14. If there is something else you would like to say about the content, please write it in the box below.

As a health professional, I can pay for my own conferences. As a former Board member of several international, national and local organizations, I'm aware of funding large events. Ethics matter. There are other funding sources whose goals do not undermine maternal-child health

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