



*Information patients can use on:*

## **OPEN PAYMENTS**

### **What is the OPEN PAYMENTS program?**

OPEN PAYMENTS is a federally run transparency program that will collect and make information public about financial relationships between the health care industry, physicians, and teaching hospitals. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will collect information from manufacturers of drugs and devices about payments and other transfers of value they make to physicians and teaching hospitals. These payments and other transfers of value can be for many purposes, like research, consulting, travel, and gifts. CMS will make this data publicly available and searchable on a website each year.

### **Why is this program important?**

OPEN PAYMENTS will create a public, national database of the financial relationships between the health care industry, physicians, and teaching hospitals that the public can use. You'll be able to look up your physicians, see if they have any of these relationships, and be more informed about how these relationships may impact your health care decisions. This program will put information into your hands and encourage you to discuss these relationships with your physician.

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## **What kinds of payments will be reported?**

There are many kinds of financial relationships between the health care industry, physicians, and teaching hospitals. Here are some examples of payments that physicians might receive that would need to be reported under this program:

- Payments for speaking engagements or consultations
- Gifts, like promotional gadgets, items useful in a medical practice, or vacations
- Entertainment, like tickets to a sporting event, concert, or theater shows
- Food and drink
- Travel and lodging
- Education, like textbooks and medical refresher courses
- Research activities, including enrolling patients in clinical trials

## **Can I see how much is paid to my doctors each year?**

Yes. CMS will publish this information each year on a public website starting in the fall of 2014.

## **Will this have any effect on my insurance?**

No. Your insurance plan isn't affected by the OPEN PAYMENTS program.

## **Will my doctor change any of my prescriptions or treatments because of this program?**

Your physician shouldn't make any changes to your health care because of this program or any financial relationships with the health care industry. Changes in your prescriptions or treatments should be based on your medical issues, diagnoses, and physicians' educated decisions.

## **Where can I get more information?**

Visit [go.cms.gov/openpayments](http://go.cms.gov/openpayments) to learn more about the OPEN PAYMENTS program.

