

Research Conflict of Interest

Information Sheet

What is conflict of interest with regards to research?

'Where a person's individual interests or responsibilities have the potential to influence the carrying out of his or her institutional role or professional obligations in research; or an institution's interests or responsibilities have the potential to influence the carrying out of its research obligations' (National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Human Research Chapter 5.4).

Do I declare it?

If you are considering whether a situation may constitute a conflict of interest or not, please declare it in your Human Research Ethics Application. The Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) will review each declaration on a case-by-case basis and determine whether it is a conflict of interest in line with Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service (GCHHS) Conflict of Interest Policy. For assistance in declaring a conflict of interest, please contact the HREC Coordinator.

Examples

The following examples may assist you to decide whether you have a conflict of interest to declare (the list is not exhaustive):

- Do you receive consulting fees from the company that is the owner of the technology upon which you are performing clinical research?
- Do you own shares in, or receive other benefit from (financial or non-financial) the company that sponsors your research?
- Do you have a personal financial interest in the company for which you are conducting funded research?
- Do you receive licensing milestone payments for licensed technology while performing clinical research on that licensed technology?
- Are you an employee; contractor; or visiting medical officer to the GCHHS while holding a position at the company, or serving on its Board of Directors, for which the research is being conducted?
- Have you accepted any gift (financial or non-financial) including travel from the company that is the subject of your research?
- Do you have other personal or outside relationships with a commercial sponsor?
- Do you serve as a director, officer or decision maker for a research sponsor?
- Do you have an interest (financial or non-financial) in a company with similar products known to the investigator to be competing with the product under study?

Further information

[Conflicts of Interest Guideline \(QH-GDL-113-1:2021\)](#)

[Conflict of Interest Declaration Form, GCHHS](#)

[Checklist for Identifying a Conflict of Interest, GCHHS](#)

[National Statement on the Ethical Conduct of Human Research 2007, Chapter 5.4](#)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, Section 7](#)