



Individual Conflict of Interest in Research Online Disclosure System

UCHC is pleased to announce the Health Center's new online disclosure system for research conflict of interest. The **UCHC-COI-SMART** allows all UCHC employees who are involved in research to complete their disclosures electronically.

What is COI-SMART?

COI-SMART is a web based application that enables Users (Respondents) to answer a series of online questions, and then allows assigned reviewers to review and manage disclosures.

Who must use COI-SMART?

UCHC policy requires all individuals involved in research at UCHC to complete an annual disclosure using COI-SMART. This includes individuals involved in any research activities conducted at UCHC, as well as any research that is reviewed/approved by the UCHC IRB or ACC, regardless of where the activity is conducted.

When should I complete the COI-SMART questionnaire?

In the past, the UCHC research community was required to complete an annual financial disclosure in research on paper. You should complete your 2014 annual disclosure in the system, prior to March 31, 2014. Note, after the initial disclosure, an updated disclosure form must be completed and filed within thirty (30) days of the acquisition or discovery of a reportable SFI.

Gustavo Fernandez

Research Compliance Monitor x8125 or Gfernandez@nso2.uchc.edu

Congratulations!

As of the January 10, 2014 deadline, UCHC reached an overall completion percentage of 97% for the 2013 mandatory compliance training! Special congratulations to all departments that reached 100%! Thank you to everyone that completed the training for your ongoing commitment to compliance and ethics.

State Code of Ethics Update: Gifts to the State

According to the State Code of Ethics, UCHC employees generally may not accept gifts from “restricted donors” including vendors or companies doing business or seeking to do business with UCHC. However, there have always been exceptions to this rule such as “gifts to the State”.

Since 2007, the Code of Ethics has permitted a state agency to accept gifts to the State which were defined as goods or services for use **only** on state property or to support a state event. In October, 2013 the legislature approved amended language to the statute whereby donors may provide gifts that support participation by state employees at an event, provided that event facilitates state functions. These changes allow state employees to accept payment for travel expenses, lodging, meals or other expenses in order to attend events such as conferences, site tours and training, **provided the event is relevant to one’s UCHC/state position**. Employees are no longer required to present or participate as a panel member at a conference in order to receive payment/reimbursement of related expenses. However, employees that do present or otherwise “actively participate” in a conference may still receive reimbursement of related expenses under the Code’s “necessary expenses” provision.

Remember that gifts to the state do not extend to family members of state employees and only includes goods or services that the State would otherwise purchase if funds were available.

For questions or to review specific situations, please contact Ginny Pack, UCHC Ethics Liaison, at 860-679-1280 or pack@nso1.uchc.edu or the Office of State Ethics at 860-263-2400 or ethics.code@ct.gov

Advance Directives—First Steps First

Meaningful use is setting a bar that will drive hospitals and eligible professionals to obtain information from patients about Advance Directives (AD). This is sometimes an uncomfortable topic as AD is commonly associated with end of life care planning, and many adult patients don’t see this as relevant to their care or treatment needs.

But AD does provide for appointment of a health care representative, and this AD is something that all adult patients should consider. A health care representative is a person you authorize to make health care decisions on your behalf in the event you are unable to make decisions about your medical care. Decisions by a health care representative must be based on your wishes, as written in an advance directive or as otherwise known. In the event your wishes are not clear or a situation arises that you did not anticipate, your health care representative will make a decision in your best interests.

If you want to change who you have appointed as a health care representative in your AD, you can revoke the authorization. This must be done in writing. ADs can be revised, so what you decide when you are 30 doesn’t have to apply when you are 60. Things change, and your AD can change too. It is important to review and communicate your current AD with your doctor, your family, and others who are significant to you.

Your physician or staff in a hospital cannot be named as your health care representative, but they can share what they know regarding discussions with you about wishes for care, including care at the end of life.

A lawyer is not needed to create advance directives. In Connecticut, the Attorney General’s Office has guidance, frequently asked questions and forms to assist persons in executing ADs. To learn more, please visit:

<http://www.ct.gov/ag/cwp/browse.asp?a=2130&bc=0&c=19278> .

For questions, please contact Margaret DeMeo, Associate Compliance Officer at 860-679-1226 or Demeo@uchc.edu