

FROM THE EDITOR

Medical Education: To Pharma or Not?

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The decades long debate on the relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and physicians continues with renewed interest due to the Physician Payment Sunshine Act (PPSA). The restrictions have significantly increased, with the American Medical Association Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs stating that “when possible” continuing medical education (CME) activities should be developed without industry support and without the participation of teachers or program planners who have financial interests in the subject matter.

Should pharma representatives be allowed to interact with residents and students? Are the regulations too rigid? We reviewed the data on the relationship between industry and physicians in a recent debate. Interestingly, the views of our residents reflect the political reality of our nation, with several taking exception to the role of government in their activities while others supported the need for regulation.

Like it or not, the proposed legislation requires transparency in reporting *any* gifts over \$100—the

data will be available on a public website. Interestingly, the “doctor dinners” sans CME credit still fall in the purview of the proposed legislation and will be reportable.

We have two opposing views regarding the role of industry in medical education. Weigh in and write to us.

Suggested Reading

http://www.prescriptionproject.org/tools/sunshine_docs/files/0001.pdf
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles>

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