

Natures of Payments



What health care providers should know.

Each year, drug and medical device companies (known as reporting entities) must submit to CMS information about the payments or transfers of value they made to teaching hospitals and certain health care providers (known as covered recipients).

Open Payments data is reported across three major categories: General Payments, Research Payments, and Ownership and Investment Interests.

General Payments

The General Payments category has several subcategories known as Natures of Payment, and include, but are not limited to: consulting and speaking fees; honoraria, gifts, and royalties; grants and research charitable contributions; entertainment, travel, lodging, food, and beverage; medical education programs; and space rental or facility fees.

More information is available at cms.gov/OpenPayments/Natures-of-Payment.

Research Payments

Research category payments can include direct compensation, funding for research study coordination and implementation, or payments to study participants.

Ownership and Investment

This category includes ownership and investments currently held by a physician or the immediate family members of a physician.

Questions About Open Payments?

Help Desk: 1-855-326-8366
openpayments@cms.hhs.gov

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Open Payments Data at a Glance*



\$72.80 billion in payments



2,843 reporting companies



1.12 million physicians



414,872 non-physician practitioners



1,440 teaching hospitals

*Active Program Years 2017-2023 as of June 2024



Watch the Video

Check out our video for more information about data tracked in the Open Payments system.

Natures of Payment data helps the public better understand the context of payments made to providers. While some payments may signal potential conflicts of interest, others may indicate beneficial collaboration and knowledge sharing. Open Payments does not identify which payments are beneficial or which may cause conflicts of interest.



Find Out More.

cms.gov/OpenPayments

Search The Data.

openpaymentsdata.cms.gov