

## **Engaging with Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and health-related organisations**

### **Roche Australia (Pharmaceuticals) Policy Position**

#### **Summary**

- Roche is committed to collaborating with healthcare professionals (HCPs) and health-related organisations to maximise the potential for positive patient outcomes and the quality use of medicines.
- Roche is proud to support a vast range of educational, research and quality use of medicines initiatives across many therapeutic areas to provide ongoing knowledge development for HCPs.
- Roche engages individual HCPs for their consultancy services, such as participating in expert therapeutic advisory boards or speaking at medical education events.
- Reportable payments and transfers of value made to HCPs are detailed in six-monthly reports on the Roche website, in accordance with Medicines Australia Code of Conduct requirements.

#### **Background**

The history of healthcare delivery in Australia has been marked by the close collaboration between healthcare professionals (HCPs) and innovative prescription medicine companies. This collaboration has extended to research as well as education, and it has contributed beneficially to the quality of healthcare.

The Medicines Australia Code of Conduct and global Roche Group Code of Conduct require that prescription pharmaceutical companies' interactions with and support for stakeholders are at all times ethical, appropriate and professional.

Medicines Australia requires member companies to report payments and specified 'transfers of value' provided by companies to HCPs. Transparency provides reassurance to patients and the public that the relationships between the industry and HCPs are appropriate, and ultimately contribute to better patient health outcomes.

#### **Roche position**

Roche is committed to collaborating with healthcare professionals (HCPs) and health-related organisations to maximise the potential for positive patient outcomes and the quality use of medicines.

The company believes engaging with stakeholders is essential, to better understand clinician and patient needs and jointly develop solutions that improve patient health outcomes. Engagement and

collaborations with HCPs and health-related organisations are built on a common set of values of integrity, maintenance of independence, respect, equity, transparency and mutual benefit.

Roche is proud to support a wide range of educational, research and quality use of medicines initiatives across many therapeutic areas to provide ongoing knowledge development for HCPs. This includes production of and access to educational and training materials, as well as hosting and supporting attendance at medical education events, including those organised by third parties.

Roche also engages individual HCPs for their consultancy services, such as participating in expert therapeutic advisory boards or speaking at medical education events. In addition to individuals, Roche may extend support to medical practices, medical societies and hospitals.

It is made clear that any payments for services or transfers of value should not compromise or interfere with the prescribing decisions of HCPs.

Roche is committed to the transparent disclosure of reportable payments and specified transfers of value to HCPs, including:

- Financial support to attend medical education (through the provision of airfares, accommodation and conference registration fees); and
- Payments for the provision of expert services (such as giving a lecture, chairing an educational meeting, providing advice as a member of an advisory board or as a consultant).

Reportable payments and transfers of value made to HCPs are detailed in six-monthly reports, in accordance with Medicines Australia Code requirements and Australia's Privacy legislation. The reports are published on the Roche Australia website.

### **Further reference**

Roche Group Code of Conduct (Global policy)

Roche Behaviour in Business: Directive on Behaviour in Business (Global guidelines)

*This position paper was adopted by the Roche Australia (Pharmaceuticals) Leadership Team on 5 October 2016 and entered into force the same day.*