

FAQ'S

Question 28

What kind of gifts can one give to HCPs, i.e. hand wash and hands lotion, will this be deemed of a personal nature?

Rene Richards replies

- Let's use the gift table to evaluate:

	Hygienic items (hand wash)?	Tickets to sport game?	Popular magazines for HCP waiting room?
Occasional	4 / year (what about every month?)	yes	every month acceptable?
Inexpensive / modest	yes	no	yes
Educational / scientific value	no	no	no
Benefit patient / practice related	yes	no	no
Meet limit (ZAR300)	yes	probably not	yes
No entertainment / personal use	no	yes	yes
Cash / equivalent	no	no	no

- Which criteria in the gift table have the casting vote?
- To recap:
- Note 7 in the guidelines references gifts as items of general utility:

"Items of general utility which have been held to be acceptable gifts to doctors as being inexpensive and of relevance to their work include but are not limited to pens, pads, diaries, nail brushes, desk trays, calendars, and desk clocks."

- This could depend. The risk with a hand soap would be that it is taken home and not utilised in the practice. Therefore, if the hand soap was from a high end brand (Charlotte Rhys / Body Shop / Crabtree and Evelyn) it would likely be raise eyebrows, but if it is a no name brand of anti-septic hand wash to be used in a practice the possibly yes. The CCO should apply some level of discretion at passing the red face test.