

FAQ'S

Question 5

Can we pay travel time for a KOL to attend an international Ad Board? Can we sponsor a locum to cover the KOLs clinical practice, whilst s/he is at the Ad Board?

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Clause 18 of the Code deals with Interaction with Healthcare Professionals.

Clause 18.5 permits the use of HCPs as for services such as Advisory board meetings.

Reimbursement for travel, accommodation and modest hospitality for the Ad Board attendees is permitted. You may also pay an honorarium.

It is not deemed acceptable to pay for a locum or travel time for the attendees.

Guideline:

Note 3 of the Guideline states that Companies may sponsor travel for HCPs for:

b. HCPs attending advisory boards

Note 14: Scientific advisory boards

If companies have scientific or advisory board meetings, there shall be bona fide consulting services agreements with the HCPs.

A written agreement is encouraged.

It is important to note that Companies may not pay HCPs for their time whilst attending the CPD events under the guise that such events are scientific meetings or advisory board meetings. The general rules relating to spouses/partners, meals and refreshments and entertainment also apply in this context.