

## **Internal Medicine Residency Program Policy On Pharmaceutical Representatives Contact With Residents**

One of the roles of pharmaceutical representatives is to provide information to physicians about products produced by their company. This includes informing physicians about new products, new indications for products, and new reported changes in dosing or side effects information.

The Internal Medicine Residency Program recognizes its role in educating residents regarding the role of pharmaceutical representatives and helping them understand how to critically review information provided by these representatives and the many other available sources for information about medications and other scientific products. Recognizing this role, our internal medicine residency program establishes the following policy:

1. Pharmaceutical representatives should not directly contact residents during the regular work day while residents are involved in their assigned clinical duties. Any messages for the residents can be forwarded to them via the Internal Medicine Residency Office at IMMC. The Residency Office will not release names, pictures or pager numbers of residents to pharmaceutical representatives.
2. Educational materials provided by pharmaceutical representatives can be distributed to residents by providing these materials to the Internal Medicine Residency Office so they can be placed in the residents' mail boxes.
3. Pharmaceutical representatives may provide unrestricted educational grants to sponsor visiting speakers for residency program educational conferences. These requests should be directed to the Internal Medicine Residency Office or Medical Education Services Office at IMMC.
4. Any industry-sponsored meetings held for residents must be conducted after regular duty hours and must not interfere with a resident's clinical rotation and responsibilities. These meetings should have an educational theme and should not be strictly promotional.
5. Gifts to residents from pharmaceutical industry representatives should not be of substantial value and should primarily serve an educational function. Subsidies to support resident attendance at educational conferences must first be approved by the Residency Program Director and will only be approved for major educational or scientific meetings.

The Executive Committee of the Internal Medicine Residency Program will assist in monitoring compliance with these policy recommendations. Any concerns or questions about them can be directed to the committee via the residency program coordinator, Beatrice Martin.