

## POLICY FOR WORKING WITH PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL DEVICE COMPANIES

### Summary

- Bone Cancer Research Trust (BCRT) is the leading charity dedicated to fighting primary bone cancer and improving the outcomes of those affected by this brutal disease through our four strategic foundations of research, information, awareness and support.
- BCRT is open to sound, ethical collaboration with both commercial and corporate partners.
- BCRT welcomes the opportunity to work with partners in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry where we believe the result is of benefit to primary bone cancer patient outcomes and is in support of our strategic aims.
- This pharmaceutical policy exists to address concerns specific to the relationship between BCRT and companies in the pharmaceutical and medical device industry.

### Policy Background

The Bone Cancer Research Trust's mission is to save lives and improve outcomes for those affected by primary bone cancer through research, information, awareness and support. We recognise that working with pharmaceutical and medical device companies is important to achieve these aims. Companies with a commercial interest in the diagnosis and treatment of primary bone cancer patients are willing to fund certain aspects of the work that BCRT do; for example sponsoring meetings or educational events that the charity hold.

BCRT aim to diversify the income that it receives in order to pursue its aims and make significant progress as outlined in their 5 year strategy: *The Biggest Ever Commitment to Primary Bone Cancer, 2017-2022 Strategy*. With this in mind, accepting funding in circumstances such as these will usually be in the best interest of primary bone cancer patients. However, BCRT recognise that pharmaceutical and medical device companies have commercial objectives which may differ from those of BCRT, and that engagement requires a clear policy.

This policy aims to help us to achieve the aims of the charity without compromising our integrity, our ability to independently fund research, increase awareness, provide support and provide unbiased information for those affected by bone cancer. This policy is based on the principles of independence, integrity and openness advocated by the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC).

### Basic principles

The Bone Cancer Research Trust will:

- Follow this guidance when dealing with or accepting finance from pharmaceutical and medical device companies.
- Work with a variety of commercial sponsors and pharmaceutical companies without giving preference to one.
- Review this policy at a minimum of every three years.
- Make details of income from pharmaceutical or medical device companies publically available.



## Conditions

The Bone Cancer Research Trust will only accept funding or other support from pharmaceutical or medical device companies where:

- The activity supported is within the charity's strategic aims.
- Funding is not subject to any condition which prevents the charity from acting in the best interests of and according to the aims and objectives of the charity.
- The funding does not prevent BCRT from speaking freely about commercial interests.
- The pharmaceutical or medical device company involved acts in accordance with the relevant UK, Irish and European regulations (i.e ABPI and Eucomed codes of practice).
- UK and/or Irish Charity Law is complied with.
- The total amount of financial support from pharmaceutical and medical device companies does not exceed 5% of the total budgetary income for the financial year, or more than £100,000 (or Euro equivalent) per annum from any one company; excluding employee-giving.
- BCRT Trustee approval has been gained for support in relation to campaigning activities.

The following conditions must also be adhered to in order for BCRT to accept support from pharmaceutical or medical device companies:

- Funding that could result in adverse publicity or the compromising of BCRT's independent stature will be declined.
- BCRT will not endorse commercial campaigns for any specific product or drug. However, the charity may support campaigns for equitable access to a product or drug where it believes it is in keeping with the aims of the charity.
- Support from BCRT should not be dependent on past or future funding from the relevant company. Information about any such funding should be made publically available in keeping with this policy.
- BCRT will not disclose information about its supporters or service users to pharmaceutical or medical device companies.
- Pharmaceutical and medical device companies will not use BCRT's name, logo or publicity without prior agreement and consultation.
- Companies providing financial support must agree to comply with this policy.

## Joint Research Initiatives

Joint research initiatives must ensure that the policies of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), of which BCRT is a member, are not contravened and that essential independence of BCRT's good name is protected.

## Product endorsement

The Bone Cancer Research Trust promotes informed choice by primary bone cancer patients by encouraging active partnership between patients and their medical professionals. Where a drug exists in more than one version, BCRT encourages the use of either the scientific name or the several different brand names in all communications. Publications should show impartiality. BCRT supports the proper licensing of medicines and believes that the marketing of non-drug treatments to the public requires similar rules and standards.

The Bone Cancer Research Trusts 'Pharmaceutical Policy' was first published in April 2014. A review of the document, producing 'Pharmaceutical Policy, Version 2', took place in September 2017. The review date of the 'Pharmaceutical Policy, Version 2' is September 2020.