

**APACMed** is a progressive industry body that promotes policies to advance healthcare access for patients. APACMed sets guidelines for its Members in its Code of Ethical Conduct for Interactions with Health Care Professionals (“Code”) to encourage ethical, collaborative interactions with Health Care Professionals (“HCPs”). Adherence to the Code is required by all Members, their employees, and any third party intermediaries, including distributors, in their interactions with HCPs in connection with medical technologies.

In February 2017, the APACMed Board revised the Code to no longer permit Members’ direct sponsorship of individual HCPs, whether as delegates or faculty, to Third Party Educational Events as of 1 January 2018. Members and third party intermediaries may continue to support HCP training and education provided by third parties through funding of educational grants.

#### WITH EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2018\*

##### **APACMed Members may not:**

- ✗ Select individual HCPs, whether as delegates or faculty, or arrange, or directly cover their costs of participation at Third Party Educational Events
- ✗ Cover travel costs for HCP participation at a company satellite symposium, if the HCP is attending the Third Party Educational Event

##### **APACMed Members may:**

- ✓ Provide grants to third parties through an independent process to support HCP participation and education
- ✓ Organise satellite symposia adjacent to Third Party Educational Events
- ✓ Cover reasonable transportation and meal costs of faculty participating in a satellite symposium, if the faculty are not otherwise attending the Third Party Educational Event
- ✓ Cover all costs of HCPs participating in independent, company-organised or supported training or education events
- ✓ Provide research grants
- ✓ Purchase advertising and lease booth space at Third Party Educational Events

*\*The revision to the Code applies to any educational event or training on and after 1 January 2018, irrespective of when the support was originally sought and/or offered.*

## About APACMed

Founded in 2014, the Asia Pacific Medical Technology Association (APACMed) is the first and only regional association to provide a unified voice for the medical technology industry in Asia Pacific. We work proactively with government bodies, medical device associations, and companies to advance regional issues and innovation, shape policies and ethical codes, share best practices, and promote regulatory harmonisation.

Collaborative interactions between our Members and HCPs are essential to advancing medical technology, preserving independent decision-making, and ensuring the safe and effective use of products and services.

[www.apacmed.org](http://www.apacmed.org)

## We are committed to supporting medical education and advancing the healthcare industry

Our Code of Ethical Conduct facilitates ethical interactions among Members, healthcare professionals, and healthcare organisations. By adopting the Code principles, our Members adhere to the highest ethical standards.

[www.apacmed.org/code](http://www.apacmed.org/code)

### Any questions?

Contact: [Code@apacmed.org](mailto:Code@apacmed.org)

For a full list of current Members of APACMed:  
[www.apacmed.org/join/current-members](http://www.apacmed.org/join/current-members)

## APACMed Code of Ethical Conduct Changes to Training and Education

A Guide for:

## Healthcare Professionals, Healthcare Institutions, Professional Associations, and Conference Organisers



## Why is the Code changing?

APACMed recognises the continuing value of educational events organised by Third Parties. The revision to the Code is to address the clear need for training and education of HCPs in Asia Pacific.

- **Independence:** We seek to preserve the integrity of purchasing and treatment decisions made by HCPs.
- **Transparency:** We aim to promote high standards of transparency and address the need to train and educate HCPs.
- **Alignment:** The revisions to the Code are an important step to align the Code with international industry codes and guidelines, serving to further enhance ethical standards in Asia Pacific.

## Educational Grants

APACMed Members may continue to support education through funding of educational grants. This transition is crucial to ensure the need for medical training and education in APAC is addressed whilst preserving the integrity of purchasing and treatment decisions made by HCPs.

Grant funding will go to third parties, including Healthcare Institutions, Professional Associations, and conference organisers, to cover costs of Third Party Educational Events, such as:

- Running events
- HCPs' attendance at events
- HCPs' travel to events and reasonable accommodation, meal, and local travel expenses
- Medical training and education for students, residents, fellowship program participants, and other medical personnel, or
- Educating the public on health care issues

Members will establish processes for reviewing grant requests to ensure transparency and independent decision-making. Members may define categories of HCPs to be supported by their grants, but may not select individual HCPs as beneficiaries of grant support.

## What the changes mean in practice



### Third Party Educational Events

#### What are they?

Educational conferences or meetings organised by a Professional Association, Healthcare Institution, or other professional organisation to promote scientific knowledge.

#### Impact of the Code:

Members are not permitted to arrange, directly pay for, or reimburse the expenses of an HCP attending or speaking at the Third Party Educational Event.



### Company-Organised Training

#### What are they?

Training for medical technologies that is independent of any Third Party Educational Event.

#### Impact of the Code:

Not impacted by the change to the Code.



### Satellite Symposia

#### What are they?

Events held alongside a Third Party Educational Event, which can be sponsored by a Member and included in the official agenda of the Third Party Educational Event.

#### Impact of the Code:

Attendees of satellite symposia should generally be drawn from those attending the associated Third Party Educational Event.

If an HCP:

**Does not attend** the Third Party Educational Event: Members may not cover any of the travel expenses and costs of the HCP's attendance at the satellite symposium.

**Attends** the Third Party Educational Event: Members may not pay travel expenses and costs, except for any local travel expenses and accommodation and meal costs directly associated with the HCP's attendance at the satellite symposium.

Faculty:

Faculty for a satellite symposium should generally be drawn from those attending the Third Party Educational Event. If a Member wishes to invite to its satellite symposium faculty not otherwise attending the Third Party Educational Event, then the Member may pay the transportation and other costs directly associated with the faculty's participation in the satellite symposium.

## When are the changes effective??

The change to the Code is effective 1 January 2018. As a result, arrangements being made now for Third Party Educational Events in 2018 are subject to the new restrictions.