



Collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry

Ovarian Cancer Australia Limited ACN 097 394 593 (OCA)
Updated August 2023

Revision History	
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1. Policy overview

- 1.1 Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) is an independent national not-for-profit organisation, supporting women diagnosed with ovarian cancer. OCA's focus is to provide care and support for those affected by ovarian cancer; and represent them by leading change. OCA's vision is to save lives and ensure no woman with ovarian cancer walks alone.
- 1.2 Pharmaceutical companies are significant stakeholders in the cancer community as their products are integral to most cancer treatments. The effectiveness, safety, side effects and cost of those products are of great interest to those impacted by ovarian cancer.
- 1.3 OCA's key stakeholders and in particular patients and survivors are very interested in information about these products, as well as any clinical trials for which they may be eligible.
- 1.4 OCA can also provide important information to pharmaceutical companies regarding the experience and needs of women with ovarian cancer.
- 1.5 OCA recognises the importance of maintaining an open dialogue and relationship with pharmaceutical companies that are producing products which may lead to benefits for ovarian cancer consumers.
- 1.6 OCA's mission relies on maintaining an irreproachable reputation. This requires that OCA act in a way that is independent of any influence from the pharmaceutical industry.
- 1.7 This document outlines the principles and policies of OCA's involvement with the pharmaceutical industry and applies to all OCA staff, Board members, volunteers, contractors and individuals who are representing OCA.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 The definition of a pharmaceutical company used in this policy is as follows: Developer, manufacturer and/or distributor of therapeutic products to be used in the treatment or diagnosis of human illness (in particular cancer). This also includes therapeutic technologies." (This is to acknowledge the growing use of technologies e.g. genomics that accompany new pharmaceuticals).

3. Principles

- 3.1 OCA will establish working relationships with pharmaceutical companies subject to the provisions of this policy to benefit key stakeholders and patients and survivors in particular.

- 3.2 OCA will endeavour to work with a range of pharmaceutical companies, acknowledging that there are a limited number of pharmaceutical companies working on treatments for ovarian cancer.
- 3.3 OCA will endeavour to achieve an equitable and reasonable balance of contributions received from relevant pharmaceutical companies operating in Australia. This is to avoid any perceived and actual preferential dealings with any particular contributor.
- 3.4 OCA will always act according to OCA's own priorities, issues and timelines. OCA will not accept any pharmaceutical sponsorship for core or non-core activities where such support would compromise OCA's independence.
- 3.5 OCA will ensure that no pharmaceutical company will have any direct or indirect input into or influence over any of OCA's patient, awareness, advocacy, research or other organisational programs and activities.
- 3.6 OCA's decisions about engaging with pharmaceutical companies will be guided by the following:
 - funding received from pharmaceutical companies must support and align with OCA priorities and strategic objectives and the quality use of medicines for women with ovarian cancer;
 - the funded activity must be driven by the needs of women with ovarian cancer;
 - there is no expectation of preferential treatment tied to any funding contribution made;
 - there will be mutual respect between OCA and the funder; and
 - there will be transparency on both sides and the funding provided will be publicly declared.
- 3.7 OCA will not endorse individual pharmaceutical cancer products.
- 3.8 OCA is committed to total transparency regarding attendance at events and receipt of funding with pharmaceutical companies. Any funding received from pharmaceutical companies will be reported to the Board and a summary will be included in OCA's Annual Report.

4. Policy

Funding

- 4.1 OCA may seek or consider funding from pharmaceutical companies on a case by case basis for core or non-core activities including:
 - awareness raising of ovarian cancer;
 - support;

- education and advocacy;
- research including consumer surveys; and
- reimbursement of costs associated with attendance at forums or seminars (reimbursements are to be made to OCA rather than the individuals involved).

4.2 OCA will not seek or accept funding from pharmaceutical companies for:

- wages or salaries of staff undertaking advocacy;
- policy development or analysis;
- costs associated with advocacy by individuals or groups on behalf of OCA; or
- involvement or engagement of OCA in marketing or promotion of any drug treatment or any treatment approach.

4.3 OCA will not accept gifts from pharmaceutical companies.

OCA representation

4.4 Where there is evidence of efficacy of a drug for treatment of women with ovarian cancer, OCA may undertake advocacy to have the drug listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). All such submissions will be sent for clinician approval; where possible, this is sought from OCA’s Clinical and Scientific Expert Advisory panel, with the aim of approval by at least two clinicians.

4.5 Where meetings are a source of information relevant to OCA’s work, OCA will attend pharmaceutical company sponsored conferences, meetings and events. Each meeting will be reviewed on merit and reported to the Board of Directors.

Consumer representatives

4.6 OCA staff will provide input to pharmaceutical companies as required based on OCA’s knowledge of women’s experience with ovarian cancer.

4.7 OCA will not source patient advocates for pharmaceutical companies to attend pharmaceutical events or represent them in the media.

Approval process and transparency

4.8 Approval of offers of funding by a pharmaceutical company must be sought as follows:

Funding	New pharma company	Existing pharma company
Individual offers (delegations)		
<\$25,000	Board of Directors	CEO

>\$25,000 OR funding offer takes total for financial year to >\$200,000	Board of Directors	Chairs of FAR & Board
Cumulative offers from a single pharmaceutical company in financial year		
Funding offer takes total for financial year to >10% of total income received by OCA at the same point in the financial year	Board of Directors (regardless of whether the funder is new or existing)	

- 4.9 The OCA Board is required to approve the acceptance of any offer of hospitality through a pharmaceutical company where that offer includes overseas travel and accommodation.
- 4.10 OCA will maintain a register of all funding from pharmaceutical companies. An annual summary of the register will be included in OCA's Annual Report.
- 4.11 OCA will report on funding received from pharmaceutical companies in management reports presented at each meeting of the Board and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, to enable regular Director oversight of funds received from individual companies. Reporting will specify both the amount received and the proportion of total grant income that the funding represents.
- 4.12 The OCA Policy on Collaboration with Pharmaceutical Companies will be made publicly available via www.ovariancancer.net.au.

5. Communication and acknowledgement

- 5.1 All funding received by OCA from pharmaceutical companies whether for core or non-core activities or attendance at meetings will be recorded in a register of funding and a summary reported in OCA's Annual Report.
- 5.2 Use of OCA's name or logo in any pharmaceutical company materials or communications will require prior approval of the Board of Directors and written permission from OCA.
- 5.3 OCA will not include references to a pharmaceutical company on any materials provided to patients or in any other external communications without express prior approval of the CEO.
- 5.4 Any information produced by pharmaceutical companies relevant to consumers provided to OCA will only be included in OCA's communications under OCA's own editorial control.
- 5.5 OCA will not include any links from OCA's website to the website of any pharmaceutical company and will not include pharmaceutical company logos on OCA's website.
- 5.6 OCA will not provide comment or support to pharmaceutical company media releases.

- 5.7 Any funding from pharmaceutical companies is conditional on OCA and the pharmaceutical company signing a binding agreement which includes or reflects the terms and conditions stated in this Policy.

6. Approval and review

- 6.1 This policy was approved by the OCA Board on 29 August 2023 and is effective from this date.
- 6.2 This policy is next due for review in 2024.