

# UCB Global Methodological Note

## Pursuant to Chapter 5 of the EFPIA Code of Practice

*This note describes the global position from UCB with regards to the EFPIA Code of Practice disclosure requirements. It is subject to change in each country affiliate depending on the local laws*

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# 1. Context

At UCB, we focus on creating value for people living with severe diseases by delivering medicines and solutions that improve their lives.

We work with stakeholders to address the unmet needs of patients and caregivers, helping them to achieve their goals and to live the lives they want.

Patients, their representatives and their caregivers, medical professionals and organisations can offer invaluable knowledge on patients' needs, behaviour and management of diseases. Engaging with such healthcare stakeholders is therefore essential for UCB and other pharmaceutical companies to improve patient care and treatment and has long been a positive driver for advancements in innovative medicine and patient value creation.

In UCB, we believe that the interest of patients and other stakeholders in the transparency of these interactions is compelling.

We are dedicated to demonstrating complete integrity and honesty in our relationships with healthcare stakeholders, including patient organisations, individual patients and their caregivers, healthcare professionals and organisations such as hospitals. Those interactions, initiated for proper, scientific reasons, unrelated to any purchases, prescriptions, or distribution of our products by those healthcare professionals or to their position, may be related to Transfers of Values (TOVs), whether in kind or in cash.

Such financial relationships should occur without potential conflicts of interest and be fully independent of the clinical decisions. Patients need to know that they can trust their doctor to recommend, prescribe and administer appropriate care and treatments based solely on clinical evidence and experience. UCB recognizes its responsibility in supporting a fair and open partnership and protecting the high standards of integrity that patients, governments and other stakeholders expect. Therefore, our interactions with healthcare stakeholders are based on standards of ethics, integrity and fair market value.

There is an expectation that such interactions between corporations and society are not only conducted with integrity but are also transparent. The pharmaceutical industry believes that it is critical to respond to society's expectations and for this reason, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry and Associations (EFPIA) require member companies to disclose the nature and scale of their interactions with healthcare stakeholders.

As an EFPIA Member Company, UCB is dedicated to complying with the disclosure of TOV requirements and is ensuring that our policies continue to align with the industry standards in all the countries where we operate. On an annual basis and as from 2016, UCB is making publicly available details of TOVs made to Patient Organisations, Patients and their caregivers, Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and Healthcare Organisations (HCOs) during the previous calendar year, covering up to 5 years of data.

This note describes UCB's general methodology used to prepare the disclosure report in accordance with the EFPIA requirements as well as our company interpretation of the above-mentioned requirements. In some European countries stricter Transparency rules occur and UCB will always apply the strictest one.

We hope that this enables public scrutiny and understanding of these relationships and therefore contributes to the trust of stakeholders and patients in the pharmaceutical industry.

## 2. Definitions

### 2.1 Recipients

The following categories of recipients are included in the disclosure reports published by UCB in accordance with the EFPIA Code of Practice disclosure requirements.

#### **2.1.1. Healthcare Professionals**

A HCP is defined any natural person that is a member of the medical, dental, pharmacy or nursing professions or any other person who, in the course of his/her professional activities, may prescribe, purchase, supply, recommend or administer a Medicinal Product and whose primary practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation is in Europe. For the purpose of this Code, the definition of HCPs includes: (i) any official or employee of a government, agency or other organisation (whether in the public or private sector) that may prescribe, purchase, supply, recommend or administer Medicinal Products and (ii) any employee of a Member Company whose primary occupation is that of a practising HCP, but excludes (x) all other employees of a Member Company and (y) a wholesaler or distributor of Medicinal Products.

#### **2.1.2. Healthcare Organisations**

A HCO is defined as any legal person/entity (i) that is a healthcare, medical or scientific association or organisation (irrespective of the legal or organisational form) such as a hospital, clinic, foundation, university or other teaching institution or learned society (except for POs within the scope of article 21) whose business address, place of incorporation or primary place of operation is in Europe or (ii) through which one or more HCPs provide services.

#### **2.1.3. Patient Organisation (PO)**

A PO is defined as a non-for-profit legal person/entity (including the umbrella organisation to which it belongs), mainly composed of patients and/or caregivers, that represents and/or supports the needs of patients and/or caregivers and which business address, place of incorporation or primary place of operation is in Europe.

#### **2.1.4. Patient Organisation Representative**

A PO representative is defined as a person who is mandated to represent and express the collective views of a PO on a specific issue or disease area.

#### **2.1.5. Patient and Caregiver**

A patient is defined as a person who is awaiting or under medical care and/or treatment; a caregiver is a person (not being a healthcare professional) who provides direct care to a patient.

## 2.2 Kind of ToVs

Below are the categories of TOVs (provided directly by UCB or through an intermediary) defined by the EFPIA Code of Practice relating to HCP/HCO disclosure of TOVs.

EFPIA category	UCB activities
<p><b>Donations and Grants</b></p> <p>According to the EFPIA Code of Practice Donations and Grants collectively, mean providing funds, assets or services freely given for the purpose of supporting healthcare, scientific research or education, with no consequent obligation on the recipient to provide goods or services to the benefit of the donor in return.</p>	<p>This category includes the financial or in-kind donations and grants provided to HCOs by UCB to support programs that foster increased understanding of scientific, clinical, and healthcare issues that contribute to the enhancement of patient care. This type of support is not linked to any benefit in return for UCB.</p> <p>Examples of programs that may be considered for such funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational workshops for healthcare providers and patients</li> <li>• Development of educational tools or resources to enhance physician-patient dialogue about treatment of disease</li> <li>• Innovative technology platforms that enhance management of disease and aim to improve patient lives and their care</li> <li>• Studentship/ fellowship program</li> <li>• Equipment to improve patient care or funding of a research chair at a university</li> <li>• Donation of services from a third party to an external organization</li> </ul> <p>UCB also supports institutions that raise awareness of the needs of those with severe diseases, to further medical and scientific knowledge, and to build strong communities in several key areas of interest in which UCB operates, such as immunology and neurology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No donations or grants are provided to individual HCPs by UCB.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contribution to costs and events</b></p> <p>Member Companies must comply with criteria governing the selection and support of HCPs, HCOs or POs' Representatives to attend Events as provided in, or in connection with, any Applicable Code(s). No payment must be offered to compensate merely for the time spent by the HCP or PO's Representative in attending Events.</p>	<p>This category includes the costs associated with the sponsorship of events fostering medical and scientific knowledge. In return, UCB receives benefits such as opportunities to promote our products, our company, and/or specific disease awareness activities. Benefits covered under the terms of a sponsorship agreement can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rental of booth or exhibit space at an event;</li> <li>• Advertisement space (paper, electronic or another format)</li> <li>• Satellite symposium at a scientific congress</li> <li>• If part of a package, drinks or meals provided by the organisers</li> <li>• Corporate membership to an association.</li> <li>• Individual sponsorships of HCPs to attend scientific/educational events. These may cover travel, accommodation, and potential congress registration fees for HCP.</li> </ul> <p>In case a given HCP could not participate to the congress or meeting for any reason, and therefore could not derive any</p>

	<p>benefit from it, any costs already incurred in case of such a 'no-show' are not reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The logistical and management fees charged by commercial agencies or travel agencies in the context of an event are not part of the disclosure.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fee for service and consultancy</b></p> <p>ToVs resulting from or related to contracts between Member Companies and HCPs or HCOs under which such HCOs provide any type of services to a Member Company or any other type of funding not covered in the previous categories. Fees, on the one hand, and on the other hand ToVs relating to expenses agreed in the written agreement covering the activity will be disclosed as two separate amounts.</p>	<p>UCB engages HCPs or HCOs in exchange of monetary compensation and/or a benefit in kind for purposes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consulting or advising services (e.g. provision of scientific expertise on specific topics during an advisory board)</li> <li>Speaker activities (e.g. scientific symposia or other medical/educational meetings, or similar activities at congresses)</li> <li>Medical writing (e.g. editorial support for scientific publications)</li> <li>Service Agreements related to transfers of value may include fees or honoraria, but also expenses incurred during the provision of the services, such as travel and accommodation.</li> <li>In case of cancellation, UCB may compensate for any services already incurred in the context of a contractual arrangement, such as preparation time for speaker activities and those compensations are included in UCB's reports.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Research and Development</b></p> <p>Transfers of Value to HCPs or HCOs related to the planning or conduct of (i) non-clinical studies (as defined in OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice); (ii) clinical trials (as defined in Regulation 536/2014); or (iii) NIS that are prospective in nature and that involve the collection of patient data from or on behalf of individual, or groups of, HCPs specifically for the study.</p>	<p>This section covers all Research and Development activities undertaken to discover and develop new therapies to treat patients suffering from severe diseases, such as but not limited to, clinical trials (UCB-conducted or independently conducted) designed to verify or study the clinical effects of one or more medicinal product(s) and identify any adverse reactions in order to ascertain its (their) safety and/or efficacy, or partnerships with both academia and leading drug discovery foundations.</p> <p>Affiliates that follow the reporting template as recommended by EFPIA disclose Transfers of Value relating to Research and Development in an aggregate format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This excludes fees provided in the context of a retrospective Non-Interventional Study (NIS). Such fees and related expenses are not considered as part of research work as defined above and will therefore be reported under the section "Fees for Service and Consultancy" of the Disclosure Report. Similarly, other R&amp;D consultancy services that are not in the scope of a clinical trial agreement are reported under "Fees for Service and Consultancy".</li> </ul>

## 3. Disclosure's Scope

### 3.1 Products concerned

Included: Only prescription-only medicines (POMs) are covered under the EFPIA Disclosure Code

### 3.2 Company concerned

- UCB Group: Disclosures apply to all UCB legal entities operating in EFPIA member countries.
- Rebranding: Any rebranded entities under UCB are also subject to the same disclosure obligations.

### 3.3 Excluded ToVs

- Transfers of Value relating to food and beverages, as well as informational and educational materials and items of medical utility, are not included in most Reports, in accordance with the EFPIA general guidance.
- In case an HCP or patient/patient representative invited by UCB needs support from an accompanying caregiver, transfers of value related to that caregiver, such as travel costs, are not included in the Disclosure Report.
- With a view to disclosing data as accurately as possible, Transfers of Value that seemed to be related to technical issues have been filtered out of all Reports.
- Transfers of Value related to commercial agreements with an HCO (e.g. rebate, rental of advertising space) are not in scope of the disclosure requirements, except in countries where the local code specifies otherwise.
- Unless specifically required in a local law or industry code, funding of Continuing Medical Education (CME) events organized by commercial providers are not considered as part of the scope, and therefore not part of the Disclosure Report, on the condition that UCB is not involved in the organisation of the event nor in the selection of participants.
- ToVs related to individual patients are not included in the Disclosure Report.
- ToVs related to HCPs who are part of UCB Board members and have an administration mandate representing the company. Information on UCB Board members for compensation is disclosed in the UCB Corporate Governance Charter and Annual Report.

### 3.4 ToVs date

- Reporting Period: Calendar year (e.g., Transfers of Value (TOVs) made in 2024 are disclosed by June 2025).
- Cut-off: All payments within the reporting year are included, regardless of when the activity was planned.

### 3.5 Direct ToVs

Definition: Any Payments or benefits made directly by UCB to final benefit of an HCPs/HCOs (e.g., consultancy fees, travel reimbursements).

### 3.6 Indirect ToVs

Definition: Any payments made via third parties (e.g., event organizers) where the recipient (HCP or HCO) is aware of UCB's involvement.

### 3.7 Non-monetary ToVs

- Included: Benefits in kind such as (non-exhausted list):
  - Travel and accommodation

- Registration fees
- Educational materials
- Meals (if compliant with local codes)

### 3.8 ToVs in case of partial attendances or cancellation and refund

- Partial Attendance: If the HCP attends only part of an event, the full value may still be disclosed if the cost was incurred.
- Cancellation & Refunds:
  - If a refund is issued, the net value is disclosed.
  - If no refund is possible, the full value is disclosed.

### 3.9 Cross-border activities

- Disclosure Location: Transfers of Value (TOVs) are disclosed in the country of the recipient's primary practice or residence, regardless of where the activity occurred.
- Global Coordination: UCB ensures alignment across affiliates to avoid duplication or omission.

### 3.10 R&D

Aggregate Disclosure: All R&D-related Transfers of Value (TOVs) (e.g., clinical trials, investigator-initiated studies) are disclosed in aggregate only, not individually. (Excluding the countries with local regulation has different requirements)

### 3.11 Voluntary disclosure

Beyond EFPIA:

- UCB may disclose additional data voluntarily, such as:
- UCB also complies with non-EFPIA frameworks like:
  - US Open Payments (Sunshine Act)
  - JPMA (Japan)
  - Other Transparency Regulations

## 4. Specific considerations

### 4.1 Country unique identifier

At UCB, we may use a country unique identifier:

- For all Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and Healthcare Organisations (HCOs), UCB may use a Unique identifier (UID) which is not “country specific” (which includes the geography of location/residence to distinguish disclosures per EFPIA Article 3. This helps ensure that Transfers of Value (TOVs) are reported in the correct jurisdiction
- Purpose: Used to align disclosures with the recipient’s primary practice location or residence to avoid the duplication in reporting/disclosure

### 4.2 Self-incorporated HCP

- UCB certifies that all TOVs made to HCPs and HCOs are reported “in line with EFPIA Code and associated guidance.”

### 4.3 Multi-year agreements

Disclosure Timing:

- UCB discloses actual payments made during the reporting year, even if part of a multi-year contract.
- Future payments under the same agreement are disclosed in the year they are made.
- Transparency: Ensures that long-term engagements are not omitted from annual reports.

### 4.4 Country specificities

Local Adaptations:

- UCB aligns its disclosure practices with the most stringent applicable to local or national regulations.

### 4.5 Quality Checks

- Data Correction Tool: Captures all Transfers of Value (TOVs) from UCB Source Systems. Errors are reviewed and remediated based on requirements.
- Pre-disclosures: No Pre-Disclosures are performed, but UCB validates internally (quality of data) through controls before reporting/disclosure.

## 5. Data protection legal basis

### 5.1 Consent collection

UCB is dedicated to disclosing the Transfers of Value (ToVs) under the names of individual recipients. At the same time, UCB is committed to complying with applicable data protection laws, which may impose certain limitations on the ability to make disclosures on an individual basis. Unless a country has a specific legislation governing the transparency of financial relationships with the pharmaceutical industry which supersedes data privacy obligations, UCB makes sure to obtain consent of individual healthcare UCB Global Methodological Note V 1 – 01 February 2021 [GlobalTransparency@ucb.com](mailto:GlobalTransparency@ucb.com) stakeholders prior to the actual disclosure. UCB preferred approach for consent collection is on a contract-by-contract basis.

UCB recognizes the right of an individual to decline or revoke consent to the publication of individual transfers of value. As a general rule, UCB has decided not to consider disclosure consent as a prerequisite for collaboration. However, UCB will not accept partial consent when the refusal or revocation only concerns a specific transfer of value or a specific time period.

When individual disclosure is declined or revoked, disclosure will happen at an aggregate level, meaning a total amount per categories as defined above for the number of anonymous recipients. Accepting revocation of consent for one or more recipients implies that Disclosure Reports are subject to change, even after publication.

### 5.2 Follow the Money

UCB adheres to the general principle of “follow the money”: whenever possible, the ultimate beneficiary of a transfer of value is the one that shall be reported. The Disclosure Report includes all transfers of value to any covered recipient (as defined above) regardless of whether it has been handled by UCB directly or through a third party acting on behalf of UCB (indirect payment). If the names of the individual beneficiaries as well as the benefit/actual amount are known to UCB, all the related transfers of value made on behalf of UCB will be reported under the name of the ultimate beneficiary (including non-blinded market research for instance). Payments made to a legal entity such as an HCO are reported under the name of that legal entity. This way of reporting is subject to changes in each country affiliate depending on the local laws and requirements of the local industry code. These variations will be specified in the local methodological notes linked to country reports. Each transfer of value is only reported once, in the recipient’s country of principal practice, taking as a reference the physical address where the individual has is home address or primary professional practice or where the HCO/PO is registered, regardless of whether the transfer of value occurs within or outside of that country.

## 6. Form of disclosure

### 6.1 Date of publication

UCB uses the reporting template provided by the EFPIA or the local industry associations or defined per law whenever applicable.

The Disclosure Reports will be available annually at the end of the second quarter of the year subsequent to the reporting period. The reporting period covers all transfers of values that occurred from 1st January to 31st December of the previous year, including the ones related to events attended or services provided before the reported year.

Reports will remain available online for a period of three years.

### 6.2 Disclosure platform

The Disclosure Reports are published on the Global UCB website when there is no local UCB website, and/or for countries without a UCB affiliate in place whenever applicable. In all other instances, the respective Disclosure Reports are either published on the local UCB affiliate website, or on a national platform where required. To facilitate access to the information, links to each of the locally published Disclosure Reports are also available on the Global website.

### 6.3 Disclosure language

The language of disclosure is English by default.

## 7. Disclosure financial data

### 7.1 Currency

UCB discloses in the local currency.

### 7.2 VAT included or excluded

Value Added Tax (VAT) is included by default in the disclosed transfers of value, but local versions of the methodological note further describe tax particularities and variations. The local currency is used for all disclosed amounts. Non-local currencies are converted, based on the rate at payment date for direct payments, or date of the event for indirect payments.

### 7.3 Calculation rules

Disclosures must be done annually, per country with transparent methodology. UCB calculates and reports Direct TOVs (paid directly to HCP/HCO/PO) and Indirect TOVs (paid through third parties but benefiting an HCP/HCO/PO).

## 8. Additional Information