

PCI “No Influence” Policy: Partnership Principles

PCI very much values working in partnership with others; it is central to how we approach our work strengthening primary healthcare. To maintain our integrity and values, we have developed clear principles and criteria to consider before entering into any partnership. This policy has been developed to inform our future work and strategic decisions; to support the team in day to day work; and to communicate our approach externally.

What is a PCI partnership?

The aim of all our partnerships is to strengthen our purpose and mission: to reduce disease, disability and death in resource poor settings by building capacity in people and primary health care systems. The partnerships that support this will naturally vary greatly in nature and depth – but we must ensure that all are considered under our Partnership policy. A partnership should be mutually beneficial, and any external communication and visibility actions will be discussed and agreed at the outset to ensure expectations of both partners can be met.

Overarching principles - any partnership must:

- Be in line with, and support, PCI’s purpose, mission and values
- Allow us to maintain our independence, integrity, credibility and reputation
- Have trust at its core
- Be transparent: no anonymous donations

Engagement with industry

- We do not accept any funds from, and do not partner with, tobacco, alcohol, arms, fossil fuel and sugary drinks companies. Any proposal to partner with an organisation who does receive funding from these sources shall be considered by the Board, who will assess the relative benefits and potential harms of such a partnership.
- PCI will not accept direct pharmaceutical funding for any of its work. In particular, we will not accept pharmaceutical funding / sponsorship / branding for any of our clinical guides or training materials. We may, however, partner with an organisation who are themselves in receipt of pharmaceutical funding for a project provided the principles below apply.
- We may also accept direct funding from medical technology companies provided the principles below apply.
- Partnering with any other companies for whom the benefits of partnering could be outweighed by the risks (reputational or programmatic) shall be considered by the Board on a case by case basis.
- Collaborations with organisations in receipt of pharmaceutical funding around policy positions or network membership are also acceptable and do not imply association with such funders. PCI may from time to time attend conferences which are sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. These are networking events rather than educational events and in no way constitute an endorsement of any sponsor.

Clinical Decision-Making Principles

PCI will only ever promote clinical diagnostics and/or therapeutics that are evidence-based or based in guidance from international institutions e.g. WHO and operates without fear or favour from partnering organizations. Therefore:

1. There are no conditions attached to the funding in terms of what goes into PCI clinical protocols or clinical decision-making;
2. There is no conditional supply of drugs to the project from a partner nor influence on procurement processes of any 'downstream' or 'upstream' partners as a result of partnership with PCI;
3. No corporate interests shall be considered in developing / agreeing / signing off clinical guidelines.
4. There is no presence of sales representatives, products, advertising or logos at any PCI training event or on any PCI training material.

The implementation of this policy is supported by a due diligence checklist and partnership decision-making matrix. The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it is fit for purpose as a guideline for partnership decision-making.