

Code of Conduct for the European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers

2012

ABOUT GIRP

GIRP (The European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers) was founded in 1960 and is the umbrella organisation of pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers in Europe. GIRP unites over 750 pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers across 31 countries and their national associations, giving them a strong voice on EU level.

GIRP offers its members (individual as well as common) support services and assistance on matters concerning their daily activities. GIRP works with representatives of its members, comprising national associations and companies, to help them with unique issues by providing advice, information, statistics and other data. In turn representatives of GIRP's member national associations and companies work towards and on behalf of GIRP in connection with the associations' activities.

PREAMBLE

GIRP carries out its activities in an environment that is diverse and broad. Despite this, there are core values and responsibilities that guide GIRP, its employees, its officers and representatives of its members who work towards and on behalf of GIRP in connection with the associations' activities.

SCOPE

The main scope of this Code of Conduct extends to GIRP, its employees, its officers and representatives of its members towards and on behalf of GIRP in connection with the associations' core activities.

The secondary scope of this Code of Conduct is aimed at motivating members to develop their own specific Codes of Conduct taking account all relevant guidelines for the development of such at national, European and international levels.

PROVISIONS

Essential aim

GIRP strives:

- **to promote** the core role and public service function of pharmaceutical full-line wholesaling which is to purchase, stock and distribute the widest assortment of medicinal products in range and depth within the framework set by the authorities and the market to meet the needs of those with whom they have normal business relations in their geographical area of activity on the same day/within less than 24 hours¹ so that the need of patients on their territories is covered.

¹Certain exceptions due to unique market structures e.g. Finland, Sweden, etc... and where no impediment exists by virtue of trade trends or regulation



- **To promote** a sector which adheres to the requirements as laid down in the European legislation (regulating wholesale distribution of medicines products) namely Directive 2001/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the community code relating to medicinal products for human use and its evolutions.
- **to encourage** adherence to European Good Distribution Practice (GDP) guidelines and other relevant principles.

Openness

GIRP aims to produce information about the sector it represents openly and honestly, taking into account any continuous duty of non-disclosure as well as restrictions on information exchange.

Competition

GIRP believes in and supports the development of fair competition. For meetings, GIRP, its employees, its officers and representatives of members are guided by GIRP's meeting guidelines.

Services

GIRP strives to produce reliable services in compliance with relevant legislation.

Environmental friendliness

GIRP is committed to creating a sustainable relationship with its environment.

Working environment and conditions

GIRP strives to create and develop a working and meeting environment in which all employees, officers and representatives of members may work safely and efficiently.

Discrimination and equality

All employees, applicants for employment and partners are equal in the eyes of GIRP and they are treated as such, regardless of race, skin colour, religion, gender, age, origin or descent, any disability or disadvantage, sexual orientation, civil status, citizenship or any other discrimination factor prohibited by law.

Bribery and illegal offers or other remunerative activities

GIRP requires employees, officers and representatives of its members when dealing with GIRP activities not to give or receive any bribes that influence decisions or that have a significant personal nominal or monetary value.

Observance of the Code

The Code of Conducts is addressed to GIRP, its employees, officers and representatives of members when working for and / or on behalf of the association who are encouraged to respect the principles set out in this Code of Conduct.



Confidentiality

GIRP, its employees, its officers and representatives of members when working for and / or on behalf of the association, should maintain the confidentiality of information entrusted to them by the association.

Non observance of the Code of Conduct

Complaints should be sent by registered mail to the President (or Director General in case there is a conflict of interest) and a copy sent to the secretariat.

The President should submit the matter to the Managing Board which should consider the complaint and respond in writing within 30 days of receiving a complaint.

The Managing Board should provide a justification for any decision / action taken on the basis of the complaint.

The person / persons against whom a complaint is made will have the right to appeal the decision of the Managing Board to the Board within 15 days of the decision of the Managing Board.

This provision applies to GIRP, its employees and officers only.

Any complaint made against a representative of a member should be direct by GIRP to the member concerned and dealt with by the member organisation's own internal procedures.

Amendments

This Code of Conduct may be amended by the Board.

FINAL REMARKS

The aims of this Code of Conduct will be achieved only if all involved persons collaborate hand in hand.

GIRP

***European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers
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