

Draft Guidance note: Payments for services or facilities in a HCP's working environment

Guideline to Section 7.1

Note 1: Payments for services or facilities in a HCP's working environment

Payments for any services or facilities in a HCP's working environment either directly or indirectly, such as but not limited to paying for patient or other parking, for patient or other coffee and coffee machines, patient or other Wi-Fi use, patient or other transport, upgrades of equipment or work environments, are prohibited. This includes but is not limited to providing cash equivalents, personal services or any type of services related or unrelated to the HCP's profession that confers a personal or other benefit to the HCP and or his / her patients. The same applies to customers in and or a pharmacy environment. This excludes services as per clause 11.1.1.1 of the Code.

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) Guidelines* prohibits the doctor from accepting such services or facilities.

* Guidelines for good practice in the health care professions guidelines. In particular, guidelines on overservicing, perverse incentives and related matters (Booklet 5).

The SA Pharmacy Council (SAPC) "Rules Relating to the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists"* prohibits pharmacists, interns and pharmacists' assistants from accepting or paying any financial gain or other valuable consideration in return for the sale or supply of any goods, substances or materials used by the HCP in the practice. The definition of sell in the Pharmacy Act includes Advertise.

* S1.6.3 Perverse Incentives; SA Pharmacy Council Rules Relating to the Code of Conduct for Pharmacists and Other Persons Registered in terms of the Pharmacy Act 53 of 1974.