Health Care Industry/Provider Financial Relationships  November 27, 2018

The Federal Government, within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), collects data about payments made by drug companies and medical device companies to health providers (physicians and teaching hospitals).

These payments may be for things such as research, meals, travel, gifts, or speaking fees, and do not necessarily imply any improper relationships between the companies and the providers.

However, in the interests of transparency, these financial relationships are reported to the Federal Government, and CMS provides a search tool where you can search for providers that have received payments as well as companies that have made them.

The web site is called "Open Payments", and the search tool can be found here:

https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/

Patients are encouraged to discuss any financial relationships they may find on Open Payments with their health care providers.

More information about Open Payments can be found from its home page:

https://www.cms.gov/openpayments/