



NATIONAL HEALTH COUNCIL

NEWS

For Immediate Release

July 10, 2008

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Statement from National Health Council President Myrl Weinberg on Revised PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals

National Health Council (NHC) President Myrl Weinberg released the following statement today on the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America's revised PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals:

"The National Health Council applauds PhRMA and its member pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies for strengthening their Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals. These measures will help ensure that company interactions with health care providers remain educational and informative.

"The NHC believes that educational dialogue between pharmaceutical company representatives and health care professionals about new, life-improving medicines can be critical to help advance patient care in America. Trust and collaboration among the various partners in the health care system, focused on the needs of the patient, are critical to bringing quality care to all people. We believe that the voluntary improvements made to the Code reaffirm the commitment of PhRMA member companies to honest, accurate, and ethical interactions with health care professionals.

"The National Health Council and its member patient advocacy groups also adhere to a detailed set of guidelines governing relationships with corporations. We recognize that many activities that help our patient groups fulfill their mission cannot be accomplished as well alone as they can be through collaboration and alliances among like-minded organizations. Our standards are designed to ensure that our member organizations consider first and foremost their mission and serving their constituents in all decisions, including whether to enter into a relationship with a for-profit entity."



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The National Health Council is the only organization of its kind that brings together all segments of the health care community to provide a united voice for 100 million people with chronic diseases and disabilities and their family caregivers. Made up of 120 national health-related organizations, its core membership includes 50 of the nation's leading patient advocacy groups. Other members include professional and membership associations, nonprofit organizations with an interest in health, and major pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology companies. The National Health Council brings together diverse stakeholders within the health community to work for health care that meets the personal needs and goals of people with chronic diseases and disabilities. To learn more about the National Health Council, visit www.nhcouncil.org.

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