

Novartis Methodological Note

on Disclosure of Payments and other Transfers of Values to Health Care Professionals and Health Care Organizations following the 'EFPIA Code on Disclosure of Transfers of Value'

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1. Reference to National Transparency Laws and Regulations

Novartis supports laws and regulations that promote transparency around relationships between healthcare companies, Healthcare Professionals (HCPs) and Healthcare Organizations (HCOs) associated with Transfers of Value (ToVs)¹ related to prescription-only medicines by establishing a single, consistent transparency standard in Europe for disclosing ToVs across its divisions and European countries, by following the EFPIA transparency requirements and requirements set in local transparency laws.

As a Novartis Company, Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office complies with the obligation to collect, disclose and report ToVs related to prescription-only medicines to HCPs/HCOs in accordance with the the National transposition of the EFPIA Code On Disclosure Of Transfers Of Value From Pharmaceutical Companies To Healthcare Professionals And Healthcare Organizations².

in addition, Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office is also disclosing ToVs related to OTC medicines and food supplements.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office has developed HCP/HCO unique identifiers to ensure that the identity of the HCP/HCO benefitting from the ToVs is clearly distinguishable for each Novartis affiliate.

2. Purpose of the Methodological Note

This document is intended to serve as supporting documentation for the 2020 Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office Disclosure Report. Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office's position is based on the interpretation of the current version of the EFPIA Disclosure Code aligned with ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

The Methodological Note summarizes the disclosure recognition methodologies and business decisions as well as country specific considerations applied by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office in order to identify, collect and report ToVs for each disclosure category as described in Section 23.05 of the EFPIA Disclosure Code.

¹ A definition on the terms "HCP/HCO" and "ToVs" is provided in chapter 9 of this document.

² The EFPIA Code On Disclosure Of Transfers Of Value From Pharmaceutical Companies To Healthcare Professionals And Healthcare Organization (in short: EFPIA Disclosure Code) states in Section 3.05 (*Methodology*) that "each Member Company shall publish a note summarizing the methodologies used by it in preparing the disclosures and identifying Transfers of Value for each category described in Section 3.01. The note, including a general summary and/or country specific considerations, shall describe the recognition methodologies applied, and should include the treatment of multi-year contracts, VAT and other tax aspects, currency aspects and other issues related to the timing and amount of Transfers of Value for purposes of this Code, as applicable".

3. Novartis' Commitment and Responsibility for Disclosure

Novartis supports laws and regulations that promote transparency around relationships between healthcare companies and HCPs/HCOs associated with ToVs related to prescription-only medicines, OTC medicines and food supplements and medical devices.

Novartis establishes a single, consistent transparency standard for disclosing ToVs in all EFPIA countries.

4. Scope of the Novartis Disclosure on Transfers of Value

This 2020 Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office Disclosure Report is following the disclosure standards pursuant to the ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations. Subject to this disclosure report are all direct or indirect ToVs related to prescription-only medicines, OTC medicines and food supplements and medical devices, disclosed by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office to or for the benefit of a Recipient made by any Novartis affiliate as described in Article 23 of the EFPIA Disclosure Code. Further details on the disclosure scope will be provided in chapter 4 of this document.

The legal definition of 'prescription-only medicine' is pursuant to the Human Medicine Act. ToVs related to a group of products that includes prescription-only medicines (e.g. combination products/diagnostics and medicinal products) are reported in total following the disclosure requirements of the EFPIA Disclosure Code.

In summary:

The 2020 Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office Disclosure Report covers direct and indirect ToVs, payments, in kind or otherwise, made to HCPs/HCOs in connection with the development and sale of prescription-only medicinal products, OTC medicines and food supplements exclusively for human use, whether for promotional purposes or otherwise.

In this report, Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office discloses the amounts of value transferred by type of ToVs with data coverage from January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019. Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office disclosure is performed for the full calendar year 2019.

Whenever possible, Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office follows the principle of disclosure on individual HCP/HCO level, to ensure that each Recipient is referred to in such a way that there is no doubt as to the identity of the HCP/HCO benefitting from the ToVs. Aggregate disclosure for non Research and Development ToVs is only used in exceptional cases, e.g. if consent could not be obtained despite best efforts or in case of withdrawal of consent.

5. Novartis' Disclosure Recognition Methodology and Related Business Decisions

This chapter represents the central pillar of this Methodological Note. It provides comprehensive information on the terminology definitions, recognition methodology and business decisions that affected how the published ToVs data was established for each category of the disclosure report.

5.1 Definition of Direct and Indirect Transfer of Values

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of ToVs as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Definitions - pursuant to the Art. 4 of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

According to the EFPIA Disclosure Code Definitions, the following definitions apply throughout this report:

- Direct ToVs are defined as those ToVs, payments or in kind, made directly by the Novartis affiliate to the benefitting HCPs/HCOs.
- Indirect ToVs are defined as those ToVs made through an intermediary (third party) on behalf of a Novartis affiliate for the benefit of HCP/HCO where the Novartis affiliate knows or can identify the HCP/HCO that benefits from the ToVs.

Generally, ToVs to HCPs via an HCO are disclosed at the first level Recipient (HCO), or exceptionally at second level Recipient as mentioned in Section 5.3.2.1, if a contract with an HCO specifies that part of the amount must be used to engage HCPs nominated by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office. When a tripartite contract exists between Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office, an HCO and an HCP, with the HCP as benefitting party, ToVs are disclosed at HCP level. If Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office holds a contract with a non-HCO Third-Party vendor acting on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office and who is contracting independent HCP/HCO to provide a reportable activity, ToVs are disclosed at the individual subcontracted HCP/HCO level, unless the HCP/HCO must remain unknown in order to comply with good market practices or Novartis internal rules.

ToVs from distributors of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office to HCPs/HCOs whose primary practice is in an EFPIA country must be disclosed if the distributor is making a ToV on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office (influencing the promotional activities and selection of Recipient). ToVs to HCPs/HCOs made through a Continuous Medical Education (CME) non-HCO provider are disclosable if the 3rd party CME provider is acting on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office (and Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office influenced choice of HCPs/Faculty).

5.2 Definition of Cross-border Transfer of Values

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of cross-border ToVs as being a Transfer of Value to an HCP/HCO that **occurred outside** the country where the Recipient

has its primary practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation provided that this country is an EFPIA regulated country.

In general, such ToVs are disclosed in the country where the Recipient has its principal practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation.

5.3 Transfer of Value Categories According to the EFPIA Disclosure

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the ToVs categories as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05 - pursuant to Art. 18 and Art. 19 of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

The following categories constitute the EFPIA Disclosure Template for the 2019 Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office Disclosure Report:

- Donations and grants to an HCO
- Contribution to costs related to events to an HCO/HCP, such as:
 - Sponsorship agreements
 - Registration fees
 - Travel and accommodation
- Fees for service and consultancy to an HCO/HCP
 - Fees for service and consultancy
 - Expenses related to fees for service and consultancy
- Research and development

Details on the recognition methodology and business decisions affecting how the published ToVs data was constructed for each category can be found in the subsequent sub-chapters.

5.3.1 Transfer of Values Related to Donations and Grants

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Donations and Grants” category as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05 – pursuant to the § 1 of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations in conjunction with Article 11 of the Code of Ethics of the Research-based Pharmaceutical Industry in Bulgaria.

Grants to a hospital/university department or teaching institution are disclosed in the name of the legal entity that is the Recipient of the ToVs – this may be the hospital, university or independent department within these organizations.

ToVs to a charitable organization are disclosed under the “Donations and Grants” category in the name of the benefitting HCO if the charitable organization falls under the EFPIA definition of a benefitting HCO. Charitable product donations made to HCOs in the context of humanitarian aid are also disclosed in the “Donations and Grants” category.

When grant requests from HCOs include explicit support for publication, then these ToVs are disclosed in the “Donations and Grants” category.

5.3.2 Transfer of Values Related to Contribution to Costs of Events

Events are defined as promotional, scientific or professional meetings, congresses, conferences, symposia, and other similar events (including but not limited to advisory board meetings, visits to research or manufacturing facilities, and planning, training or conducting of investigator meetings for clinical trials and non-interventional studies) organized or sponsored by or on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office pursuant to schedule 1 of the EFPIA Disclosure Code.

ToVs to participating HCPs/HCOs related to such events falling under the definition above are disclosed in the “Costs of Events” sub-categories “Sponsorship Agreements”, “Registration Fees” or “Travel and Accommodation”. ToVs that by exception fall into the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” or “Research and Development” categories are outlined in the respective chapters 5.3.3 and 5.3.4.

5.3.2.1 Transfer of Values Related to Contribution to Costs of Events – Sponsorship Agreements

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Sponsorship Agreements” category as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05, following the principle that “Sponsorship Agreements” are formalized in contracts that describe the purpose of the sponsorship and the related direct or indirect ToV – pursuant to the the Art. 18, p. 1.2 of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

In general, indirect sponsorship of an HCP through an HCO is disclosed under the “Sponsorship Agreements” category as payment to the HCO as first level Recipient of the ToV. This applies to the following categories: ToVs related to intermediaries selecting the faculty who acted as speakers or faculty at an event; ToVs related to advertising space, sponsoring of speakers/faculty, satellite symposia at congresses, courses provided by HCOs.

ToVs made through a professional conference organizer (PCO) as intermediary e.g. for the hire of booths or stand space on behalf of an HCO, are disclosed as ToVs either in the “Sponsorship Agreements” category or as “Fees for Services and Consultancy” – depending on the nature of the spend, in the name of the sponsored HCO as benefitting Recipient.

If the contract requires the HCOs to use some of the amount to invite a number of HCPs selected by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office to an event, the ToV is split and disclosed based on the ToVs category the amount was used for (“sponsoring agreements” of speakers/faculty; “registration fees” or “travel and accommodation”) individually in the name of each HCP.

If an intermediary organized an event with sponsorship of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office on behalf of more than one HCO, the ToV is disclosed based on the actual ToV allocated to each benefitting HCO wherever possible. In cases where it was not possible to accurately allocate the ToVs to each HCO involved in the event, it was assumed that all HCOs had similar levels of involvement. In consequence, the ToV was divided by the number of HCOs, which would each be reported as having received their equal share of the ToVs.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office discloses ToVs related to preceptorships considering that such non-promotional independent “practical” training offered to HCPs by other HCPs or HCOs – typically in a specific disease area at a reputed teaching institution (faculty of medicine, university, university hospital) – falls under the definition of “Events” and is disclosed in the name of that contracting entity.

5.3.2.2 Transfer of Values Related to Contribution to Costs of Events – Registration Fees

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Registration Fees” related to cost of events categories as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05 – pursuant to the Art. 19, p. 1.2 . and p. 2.1. of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

In general (and for all types of events), whenever registration fees were charged for an event organized or sponsored by or on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office, they are disclosed in the name of the benefitting HCP or HCO. The total amount of registration fees paid in a given year to a HCO should be disclosed on an individual basis (in the name of the HCO) under “Contribution to Costs of Events”. The total amount of Registration Fees paid in a given year to a HCP who is the clearly identifiable Recipient is disclosed on an individual basis (in his/her name) under “Contribution to Costs of Events”.

ToVs related to virtual congresses (e-congresses) are reported as actual spend. Aggregate spend is disclosed under the HCO in each country and is reported in "Registration Fees" category.

5.3.2.3 Transfer of Values Related to Contribution to Costs of Events – Travel & Accommodation

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Travel and Accommodation” related to cost of events categories - pursuant to the Art. 18, p.1.2. and p.2.1. of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

ToVs covered under the “Travel and Accommodation” category include costs of transportation (e.g. flights, trains, buses, taxis, etc., car hire tolls, parking fees) and accommodation (e.g. hotel, apartment, etc.), to the extent governed by Article 9 of the Code of Ethics of the Research-based Pharmaceutical Industry in Bulgaria.

In general, ToVs related to travel and accommodation are disclosed at first level Recipient basis. If the ToVs are made through an HCO or intermediary (third party), it will be disclosed at individual HCP level whenever possible (see chapter 5.1).

ToVs related to travel and accommodation for a group of HCPs such as group transportation by bus are disclosed on an aggregate basis. If the mass transportation is shared by a group of HCPs who have their primary practice in different countries, the ToVs are disclosed in aggregate with the total cost divided equally among the planned number of benefitting HCPs per country.

In case the benefitting HCP partly bears the costs related to travel and accommodation, the net amount of the Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office payment offset by payment from HCP is disclosed as ToV under the “Travel and Accommodation” category in the name of the HCP.

5.3.3 Transfer of Values Related to Contribution to Fees for Service and Consultancy

5.3.3.1 Transfer of Values related to Contribution to Fees for Service and Consultancy – Fees

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” category as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05 - pursuant to the Art. 18, p. 1.3. and p. 2.2. of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

ToVs covered under the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” category, whether made directly or through a third party to an HCP/HCO, include but are not limited to services performed in connection with third-party congresses, speakers’ fees, speakers’ trainings, medical writing, data analysis, development of education material, interviews e.g. on Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office products or research, general consulting/advising, services by distributors, consultancy for tool/questionnaire selection or analysis, and any other type of services or consultancy.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office has formalized such collaboration in a contract describing the purpose of ToVs. In general, the ToVs received by the contracting entity – which may be an HCP, a legal entity owned by an HCP (considered an HCO under the EFPIA Disclosure Code) or an HCO – are disclosed under the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” category in the name of that contracting entity.

ToVs related to market research studies for which the identity of the Recipient was known to Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office, are disclosed under the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” category. ToVs related to market research studies for which the identity of the HCP/HCO was not known to Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office are not disclosed as the right of the respondents to remain anonymous is embodied in market research definitions and relevant codes of conduct worldwide.

ToVs related to medical writing and editorial support made directly or indirectly to an HCO/HCP are disclosed either under the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” in the name of the benefitting HCP/HCO or under the “Research and Development” category in aggregate form. The following instances of medical writing and editorial support are covered under the “Fees for Service and Consultancy” category: case studies, congress write ups, article and abstracts, manuscripts, poster, clinical management guideline, supplements.

ToVs related to the following Research and Development related activities (see chapter 5.3.4) but when they do not fall under the definition of Research and Development ToVs as stated by the EFPIA Disclosure Code and EFPIA HCP Code Article 15 are disclosed under the “Fees for Services and Consultancy” category in the name of the benefitting Recipient, for example:

- Retrospective non-interventional studies not falling under the definition of Research and Development ToVs as per EFPIA Disclosure Code definition of Research and Development Schedule 1 and EFPIA HCP Code Article 15
- Investigator initiated trials, investigator sponsored trials and Investigator meeting, in the exceptional cases when such ToV do not fall under the definition of Research and Development mentioned above
- Activities contracted to Contract Research Organizations (CROs) where Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office makes indirect ToVs to HCPs/HCOs but not falling under the EFPIA Research and Development definition
- Project activities related to e.g. disease area, mode of action, market placement, adjudication committees, speaker programs, scientific meetings, ethics committees, steering committee and advisory board activities not in scope of the EFPIA Research and Development definition
- ToVs related to consultancy for tool/questionnaire selection or analysis and reporting of results not in scope of the EFPIA Research and Development definition

5.3.3.2 Transfer of Values related to Contribution to Fees for Service and Consultancy – Related Expenses

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office fully complies with the EFPIA definition of the “Fees for Service and Consultancy - Related Expenses” category as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.05 - pursuant to the Art. 18, p. 1.3. and p. 2.2. of of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

In general, the ToVs amount related to expenses such as travel and accommodation cost associated with the activity agreed to in a “Fees for Service” or “Consultancy” contract do not constitute part of the fees itself; in consequence such ToVs are disclosed under the “Related Expenses” category in the name of the benefitting HCP/HCO.

In case such expenses were not material (e.g. of limited value), or when such expenses despite best effort could not be accurately disaggregated from the fees, such ToVs have

been disclosed as part of the total amount of fees under the “Fees for Service or Consultancy” category.

5.3.4 Transfer of Values Related to Research and Development

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of the “Research and Development” category as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code – Definitions, the definition of non-clinical studies in the OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice, the definition of clinical trials and non-interventional studies (as defined in Directive 2001/20/EC and Section 15.01 of the HCP Code) - pursuant to the Art. 21 of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

ToVs **related to the following Research and Development activities** are disclosed under the “Research and Development” category in aggregate form whenever they fall under the definition of Research and Development by the EFPIA Disclosure Code, for example:

- Activities related to the planning or conduct of non-clinical studies, clinical trials or prospective non-interventional studies and that involve the collection of patient data from or on behalf of individual, or groups of HCPs specifically for the study (Section 15.01 of the HCP Code).
- IIT (Investigator initiated trials) and IST (Investigator sponsored trials - since, although not initiated by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office, they may benefit from Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office
- Post marketing trials, investigator meetings - in which case the total ToV amount is disclosed and in case of participating HCP from other countries, the total actual cost per meeting (incl. infrastructure, travel, logistic and with exclusion of meals whenever possible) is divided by the number of participants per country of practice
- Activities contracted to CROs, where Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office makes indirect ToVs to HCPs/HCOs falling under the definition of Research and Development
- ToVs related to early stage research if falling under the definition of Research and Development in the EFPIA Disclosure Code

In case ToVs relating prospective and retrospective non-interventional studies cannot be distinguished, all non-interventional studies are disclosed on an individual basis.

ToVs made by or on behalf of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office **related to consultancy activities** are disclosed under the “**Research and Development**” category in aggregate form whenever they fall under the definition of Research and Development by the EFPIA Disclosure Code: consultancy activities related to the planning/conduct of non-clinical studies, clinical trial or prospective non-interventional studies, ethics committees, steering committee and advisory board activities related to the planning or conduct of non-clinical studies, clinical trial or prospective non-interventional studies, adjudication committees, speaker programs, scientific meetings.

ToVs related to **licensing fees** paid for the use of Clinical/Health Economics and Outcomes Research questionnaires and tools, if the questionnaires and tools are intended for use with an Research and Development project/study are reported in aggregate form under the “Research and Development” category.

The following instances of medical writing and editorial support (as defined in chapter 5.3.3) are covered under the “Research and Development” category: investigator’s brochure (trials), clinical study report (trials), clinical report, safety report; generally all types of medical writing related to clinical trials or related to Research and Development activities.

6. Measures Taken to Ensure Compliance with Data Privacy Requirements

This chapter describes measures taken by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office to ensure compliance with data privacy regulations, rules on consent collection and managing of relevant information in compliance with relevant internal rules, data privacy laws and regulations.

6.1 Safeguarding Measures to Address Lawful Collection, Processing and Transfer of HCPs’ Personal Data

Data privacy refers to the individual’s fundamental right to control the use of, access to and disclosure of information that describes or identifies the individual (“personal Information”). To fulfil the transparency disclosure requirements, it is necessary to collect, process and disclose such personal data within and outside of Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office. This data will be published for 3 years in public domain and stored for a minimum of 5 years on record by the Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office (publishing affiliate). The disclosure of such personal information by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office is at all times limited to the intended purposes.

In case personal data had to be transferred from countries to the central Novartis Transparency data repository manually (e.g. Excel) or via interfaces, applicable local regulations for the transfer were assessed at local level and managed accordingly. Where required, the transfer of data to a third country (outside the EU/EEA) was approved by the data controller’s Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office country data protection authority (e.g. Information Commissioner).

6.2 Consent Collection

Consent for the publication of the ToVs was obtained and documented as such before disclosing the data on an individual HCP/HCO level where applicable³. Consent management procedures were conducted in alignment with the Personal Data Protection Act.

Consent was obtained either on Recipient level for all ToVs during a given period of time not shorter than one full year or on spend level for each interaction or single ToVs.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office does not accept partial consent or split disclosure.

In case consent was either not given by the Recipient or not documented sufficiently to prove the existence of consent, ToVs are disclosed on aggregate level only.

In the event of death of an HCP by the time of disclosure (by the publication date) the ToV is reported in aggregate.

HCP has a right to withdraw the consent. Consent withdrawal has been assessed according to the relevant Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office local data privacy laws – Personal Data Protection Act.

Any alternative way to manage individual publication of ToV (for example based on a different legal ground than the consent) is discussed with and assessed by the local Data Privacy Head.

7. Financial Aspects

This chapter focusses on the financial aspects related to recognition methodology and business decisions associated with the collection and disclosure of the ToVs information.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office complies with the Sandoz accounting principles and the financial disclosure methodology.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office decided to apply the following rules for ToVs payment dates based on type of ToVs: direct ToVs are disclosed based on the date the payment has been cleared via banking system. Indirect ToVs related to events such as congresses for which the dates of (in kind) expenses differ from the date(s) the event took place, are disclosed using the date of the last day of the event.

³ New EU Regulation (GDPR) lays down rules relating to the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data.

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office discloses ToVs gross amount. Where income tax or equivalent is withheld by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office on amounts earned by the HCP then the ToV will include these amounts.

Currency treatment – foreign currency ToVs will be converted using actual exchange rates in agreement with the accounting policy of the Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office. ToVs will be disclosed in the local currency of the country where the disclosing entity is located. For direct and indirect ToVs, the foreign currency is converted to the local currency of the disclosing entity based on the transaction date. For cross-border ToVs, the foreign currency is converted to the local currency of the disclosing entity based on the average rate for the month in which the ToV occurred, using the Novartis Treasury rates.

In case of cross-border ToVs as defined in chapter 5.2, direct ToVs will be recognized when the payment has been cleared via the banking system and indirect ToVs will be related to the end date of the event.

In case of multi-year contracts, ToVs are recognized based on the date the payment has been cleared via the banking system.

Should an affiliate realize that significant spend is recorded after cutoff date the affiliate will re-publish an updated report within 3 months and according to the local code.

8. Published Data

Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office applies the EFPIA definition of “Form of Disclosure” as outlined in EFPIA Disclosure Code Article 23.4 - pursuant to the Chapter II of ARPharm Code for Disclosure of Transfers of Value by Pharmaceutical Companies to Healthcare Professionals and Health Organizations.

Updates of published data are conducted on an annual basis within 6 months after the end of the relevant full calendar year to allow for reflection of data updates or consent withdrawal after disclosure submission.

This data will remain published for 3 years in public domain and stored for a minimum of 5 years on record by the publishing affiliate.

The competent body to deal with complaints for violations of the ARPHARM Disclosure Code for infringement and imposing of sanctions provided in the Code is the Ethics Committee of the Association (ARPHARM), with composition, powers and functions governed by the ARPHARM Code of Ethics.

Complaints and reports of violations of the ARPHARM Disclosure Code may be submitted to the Ethics Commission or to EFPIA. Incoming complaints in EFPIA regarding violations of the Code shall be forwarded for consideration by the Ethics Committee of the Association in the procedural order of EFPIA. The Ethics Commission shall ensure fair treatment of complaints, regardless of the quality of the Claimant.

Violation of the ARPHARM Disclosure Code shall mean any act or omission of the Company to disclose the transfer of value by which the company has violated the provisions of this Code.

Publication is made via the following disclosure platform:
<https://www.novartis.bg/prozrachnost>.

The platform chosen fulfills the recommendation of the EFPIA Disclosure Code as being a platform accessible in the country where the Recipient has the primary practice and following the local laws or regulations of the country where the Recipient has their practice. All EFPIA Disclosure Reports published by Sandoz Bulgaria Branch Office and any other Novartis affiliate in Bulgaria are published on the same platform <https://www.novartis.bg/>.

Member Companies shall be able to modify, delete or in any way alter their disclosures at any time before or after the time of publication. The information disclosed shall remain in the public domain for 3 years after the time such information is first published.

9. Acronyms and Abbreviations

This chapter includes a list of acronyms, abbreviations and definitions for documentation purpose, based on Definitions in the EFPIA Disclosure Code whenever possible:

- **Contract Research Organization (CRO):** an organization that provides support to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device industries in the form of research services outsourced on a contract basis.
- **Healthcare Professional (HCP):** Any natural person that is a member of the medical, dental, pharmacy or nursing professions or any other person who, in the course of his or her professional activities, may prescribe, purchase, supply, recommend or administer a medicinal product and whose primary practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation is in Europe. For the avoidance of doubt, the definition of HCP includes: (i) any official or employee of a government agency or other organization (whether in the public or private sector) that may prescribe, purchase, supply or administer medicinal products and (ii) any employee of a Member Company whose primary occupation is that of a practicing HCP, but excludes (x) all other employees of a Member Company and (y) a wholesaler or distributor of medicinal products.
- **Healthcare Organization (HCO):** Any legal person (i) that is a healthcare, medical or scientific association or organization (irrespective of the legal or organizational form) such as a hospital, clinic, foundation, university or other teaching institution or learned society (except for patient organizations within the scope of article 21 of the EFPIA Disclosure Code) whose business address, place of incorporation or primary place of operation is in Europe or (ii) through which one or more HCP provide services.

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- **Member Associations:** as defined in the EFPIA Statutes, means an organisation representing pharmaceutical manufacturers at national level whose members include, among others, research-based companies. Collectively, the national Member Associations or their constituent members, as the context may require, are bound by the EFPIA Code.
 - **Member Companies:** as defined in the EFPIA Statutes, means research-based companies, developing and manufacturing Medicinal Products in Europe for human use.
 - **Professional Conference Organizer (PCO):** a company which specializes in the organization and management of congresses, conferences, seminars and similar events.
 - **Recipient:** Any HCP or HCO/PCO as applicable, in each case, whose primary practice, principal professional address or place of incorporation is in Europe.
 - **Research and Development ToVs:** ToVs to HCPs or HCOs related to the planning or conduct of (i) non-clinical studies (as defined in OECD Principles on Good Laboratory Practice); (ii) clinical trials (as defined in Directive 2001/20/EC); or (iii) non-interventional studies that are prospective in nature and that involve the collection of patient data from or on behalf of individual, or groups of, HCPs specifically for the study.
 - **Transfers of Value (ToVs):** Direct and indirect transfers of value, whether payments, in kind or otherwise, made, whether for promotional purposes or otherwise, in connection with the development and sale of prescription-only Medicinal Products, OTC medicines and food supplements exclusively for human use. Direct transfers of value are those made directly by a Member Company for the benefit of a Recipient. Indirect transfers of value are those made on behalf of a Member Company for the benefit of a Recipient, or transfers of value made through an intermediate and where the Member Company knows or can identify the HCP/HCO that benefit from the Transfer of Value.