

# Open Payments

Open Payments is a national program that makes information about payments individual health care providers receive from drug and other companies publicly available online.

Federal law requires companies to report funds they give health care providers in the form of meals, entertainment, travel, gifts, consulting fees, research payments, and more, promoting transparency and helping uncover potential conflicts of interest.

It is common for health care providers to receive payments. Just because financial ties are reported in Open Payments does not mean anyone has done anything wrong.

Open Payments helps patients make better informed decisions about their providers, and the products or procedures they recommend, putting patients in charge of their health care decisions.

At [OpenPaymentsData.CMS.gov](https://OpenPaymentsData.CMS.gov), anyone can search for health care providers and see what their payments were for, how much they received, the companies that made the payments, and comparisons to national averages.

### **You can use the information in Open Payments to:**

- Talk with your provider about why they recommend certain medications or treatments for you or a loved one, including asking about generic options.
- Start a discussion with your provider about their areas of professional interest and expertise based on the research or consulting they have done.
- Directly ask your provider some of these questions:
  - Is this you?
  - What type of work do you do with these companies?
  - Have you prescribed me any drugs that are manufactured by companies you've taken payments from?
  - What devices have you used in my care that are manufactured by companies you've taken payments from?
- Consider financial relationships when searching for a new provider.