

Pharmaceuticals Europe

Working with patient groups in Europe



Understanding patient needs

In order to achieve our mission – to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer – our priority is to understand the needs of patients and their illnesses. Working with patient groups is one way of giving us this vital insight and aids our efforts to find new medicines and vaccines.

What are patient groups?

Patient groups provide people with support and information on how to live with their disease, represent patient views and campaign for change on issues that affect patients' and carers' lives. Some also carry out vital research into the causes of, and potential treatments for, specific conditions.

Our Commitment

We are committed to working with patient groups at the highest levels of transparency and ethical standards. Our relationships with patient groups are governed by GSK's Codes of Conduct and all applicable local and European codes and laws.

Our ways of working:

- **Any involvement GSK has with a patient group in Europe must be declared and transparent**
- **GSK has no right and shall not seek to approve a patient group's written materials**
- **GSK must not create patient groups and/or be the sole funding sponsor of a patient group**
- **A long-term commitment of funding for two to three years should be considered**
- **GSK must not seek endorsement for medicines from patient groups**
- **It is acceptable for GSK clinical trials or medical personnel to work with patient groups to ensure optimal clinical trial recruitment.**

Transparency

This year we have taken our commitment one step further by becoming the first pharmaceutical company to publish details of its support to patient groups in Europe. We detailed all of the European patient groups we work with and included information on all projects and the amount of financial support given.

In 2006, GSK provided a total of €8.8 million to support a variety of activities with 424 patient groups across Europe. The activities ranged from core funding to support the patient group itself, or to supporting projects on prevention, education and disease awareness.

Publishing this information confirms our commitment to transparency and reflects the ethical spirit of how we work together with patient groups. We will continue to make this information available on an annual basis at www.gsk.com/responsibility

GSK Global Principles for working with patient groups

1. The independence of patient groups, of their political judgement and of their activities, shall be assured
2. In all co-operative matters, transparency is vital
3. Any joint policies undertaken between patient groups and GSK shall be based on mutual respect and trust
4. GSK shall refrain from using undue influence to promote its specific medicines or services
5. When working with patient groups GSK will always comply with local laws/governance.





“We wholeheartedly support your efforts to ensure transparency in your relationships with patient organisations”

The European Federation of Neurological Association

“This is a commendable policy, GSK has been a leader among the pharmaceutical industry in the transparency of clinical trials, and we are glad it is extending this to the relations and support to patient organisations.”

European Aids Treatment Group

Working with patient groups in Europe

We share a vision with patient groups across Europe – to improve patients’ access to effective treatment and services. Our aim is to support the voice of patients and to foster a constructive healthcare debate for all stakeholders.

“We have welcomed the way GSK has supported our work towards an EU Recommendation on Diabetes and we are very grateful for the extremely considerate and ethical manner of the relationship. GSK contributed to the focus of the Recommendation and Declaration by working hard to contact European politicians and policymakers, urging them to get involved.”

International Diabetes Federation

The patient is at the centre of our efforts to find new medicines and vaccines. As patients ultimately benefit from our medicines, they have a view on the research we undertake and the innovative medicines we bring into the healthcare system. Although we do not engage with individual patients directly in Europe, it is GSK policy to engage with patient groups as part of our aim to be a patient-focused company.

In Europe we work with a wide range of patient groups, from umbrella organisations to those in a variety of different disease areas; such as cancer, asthma, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. Typically these relationships provide mutual opportunities to learn about patient needs and priorities, and to develop an understanding of drug development challenges.



Working with patient groups in Europe *continued*

We are very proud of our relationships with patient groups. Underpinning all of our work with these groups is trust, mutual respect and the importance of a sustained long-term working relationship. We actively encourage patient groups to maintain relationships with a wide range of organisations and companies to ensure credibility and independence.

A patient group is able to accept or decline funding in accordance with the best interests of the group's members. We look to provide funding to patient groups where it is clear that it will be beneficial for patients and their patient organisation. This decision may be taken at a local, national, regional or European level.



Key facts

- Our mission is to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer
- We are a research-based pharmaceutical company
- We believe GSK remains the only pharmaceutical company researching both new vaccines and treatments for HIV and AIDS, TB and malaria – the World Health Organization's three priority diseases
- Globally our business employs over 100,000 people in 116 countries
- Over 15,000 people work in our research teams to discover new medicines.



For more information please see gsk.com/responsibility