

Working with pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies: Prostate Cancer Research's principles and conditions

Last updated: November 2025, reviewed by Chief Resources Officer

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Review date: November 2027

Introduction

At Prostate Cancer Research (PCR), we recognise that support from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device, diagnostic, can and will make an important contribution to our work on behalf of people affected by prostate cancer. We value working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure a holistic understanding and approach to the needs of men living with and after prostate cancer. Through our translational research arm we also fund early-stage companies that could impact prostate cancer.

Across all areas of our work, decisions are made independently, based on informed and balanced evidence, and always with the aim of improving the lives of people affected by the disease.

We are committed to upholding our reputation for integrity, independence, impartiality, and transparency in all we do. Therefore, whilst we acknowledge that support from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device, diagnostic, and PCR funding companies is an important resource, it is essential that our relationships with industry partners are governed by a clear and robust policy.

Overview

We believe it is important to maintain cooperative relationships with companies that manufacture and market drugs, treatments and medical devices for prostate cancer and offer private screening or healthcare services. However, these companies must not influence our strategic direction, activities or what we say.

Our grant and funding selection processes and our processes for monitoring and evaluating research projects are driven by relevance to patients and scientific excellence, as judged against our Research Strategies, and will always remain completely independent of any third party.

As a charity, PCR is agnostic to the source of innovation. We do not endorse any specific diagnostic, therapeutic. Instead, we are committed to identifying and supporting the most effective solutions for patients regardless of where they originate. We therefore welcome collaboration with any company, large or small, established or emerging that is developing promising diagnostics, devices, therapeutics, or care innovations that align with our mission to improve outcomes for people affected by prostate cancer.

In practice, this means we apply tools such as our Prostate Progress data platform and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) modelling to evaluate the potential of new solutions and generate evidence that can inform decisions across the health system. We are open to collaborating on innovations that show promise in delivering measurable benefit to patients and the NHS, regardless of the company or sector they originate from, while maintaining our independence and objectivity.

Where we receive support from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device or diagnostic companies, we aim, where possible, to engage multiple partners to help avoid any perception of undue influence over our work. However, in cases where a single company supports a specific project or service, we ensure that the terms of the collaboration uphold our independence and align with Clause 27.4 of the ABPI Code of Practice, which prohibits exclusive arrangements that could compromise objectivity.

Guiding principles

PCR's policy for working with the medicine, device, diagnostics and private healthcare industries is based upon the following core principles:

1. Clarity of Purpose
2. Independence
3. Integrity
4. Transparency

The policy takes into account the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry 2016 and the Association of Medical Research Charities' (AMRC) publication, "An Essential Partnership Principles & Guidelines for Working with Industry" 2014. It is supported by a wider Corporate Partnerships Policy and the Charity Commission guidelines 'Fundraising through Partnerships with Companies'.

1. Clarity of purpose: We will be clear about the reason for and the planned outcome of any collaboration with a pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device or diagnostic company, including the ultimate benefit for those affected by prostate cancer, as well as supporters. Collaboration can take many forms, ranging from donations to working together to the sharing of advice and expertise.
2. Integrity: All of PCR 's work will be carried out with honesty and integrity at all times. We will also consider the integrity of any companies with whom it develops relationships. PCR will not enter in to, or remain in, any collaboration that puts its integrity at risk.
3. Independence: The independence of PCR will always be maintained. We will remain free to comment at will and comprehensively, both positively and negatively, about pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device or diagnostic companies and their products as and when it becomes necessary, or we are invited to comment. This also includes maintaining our own editorial independence.
4. Transparency: All of PCR's collaborations will be conducted openly and we will account publicly for the associated activities and any exchanges of funding with, and from, pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies.

Conditions

Taking into consideration the core principles which PCR will follow, we will only work with pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies where:

- The activity being supported meets our strategic aims;
- The funder passes our ethical background and due diligence checks;
- The company we are funding passes our due diligence checks;
- The activity meets the criteria and conditions outlined in this policy and has been approved in advance in accordance with our internal appraisal processes;
- The relationship/activity is not subject to any conditions that prevent us from acting in the best interests of people with or affected by prostate cancer;
- We formalise our partnerships through written agreements which document the agreed terms and conditions;
- We expect compliance with the conditions of the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry. Where a company is not a member of the ABPI we will require written assurances that any partnership work or support will be conducted to the ABPI Code of Practice, with particular reference to the conditions that are the PCR priorities for the activity;
- The amount of financial support from pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies will not put the organisation at risk or reduce our

independence to make research decisions in the best interest of patients. We will not normally accept funding that amounts to more than 20% of our annual income from a single company.

- There is no attempt on the part of the company or companies to influence the charity's strategy, or activities either explicitly or implicitly.
- Ensure that we work with a variety of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, device and diagnostic companies.
- We review this policy and its operational impact annually.

Prostate Cancer Research

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