

# Natures of Payments



## What health care providers should know.

Each year, drug and medical device companies (known as reporting entities) must submit to CMS information about the payments or transfers of value they made to teaching hospitals and certain health care providers (known as covered recipients).

Open Payments data is reported across three major categories: General Payments, Research Payments, and Ownership and Investment Interests.

### General Payments

The General Payments category has several subcategories known as Natures of Payment, and include, but are not limited to: consulting and speaking fees; honoraria, gifts, and royalties; grants and research charitable contributions; entertainment, travel, lodging, food, and beverage; medical education programs; and space rental or facility fees.

More information is available at [cms.gov/OpenPayments/Natures-of-Payment](https://cms.gov/OpenPayments/Natures-of-Payment).

### Research Payments

Research category payments can include direct compensation, funding for research study coordination and implementation, or payments to study participants.

### Ownership and Investment

This category includes ownership and investments currently held by a physician or the immediate family members of a physician.

### Questions About Open Payments?

Help Desk: 1-855-326-8366  
[openpayments@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:openpayments@cms.hhs.gov)

Join our listserv to receive program updates. Subscribe on the "Contact Us" page.

### Open Payments Data at a Glance\*



\$68+ billion in payments



2,800+ reporting Companies



1.10 million physicians



331,164 non-physician practitioners



1,411 teaching hospitals

\*Active Program Years 2016-2022 as of June 2023



### Watch the Video

Check out our video for more information about data tracked in the Open Payments system.

Natures of Payment data helps the public better understand the context of payments made to providers. While some payments may signal potential conflicts of interest, others may indicate beneficial collaboration and knowledge sharing. Open Payments does not identify which payments are beneficial or which may cause conflicts of interest.



### Find Out More.

[cms.gov/OpenPayments](https://cms.gov/OpenPayments)

### Search The Data.

[openpaymentsdata.cms.gov](https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov)