



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington DC 20420**

**IL 10-2004-002**

In Reply Refer To: 10E

**February 17, 2004**

**UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER**

**GIFTS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS  
FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**

1. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter provides clinicians and managers with information about ethical issues in relationships between health care professionals and representatives of the pharmaceutical industry in VHA.
2. Maintaining appropriate relationships with the pharmaceutical industry is an essential aspect of professionalism and ethical health care practice. A new report by VHA's National Ethics Committee, Gifts to Health Care Professionals from the Pharmaceutical Industry:
  - a. Discusses the nature of gift relationships and why gifts to health care professionals from the pharmaceutical industry may be ethically problematic, and
  - b. Offers practical guidance for health care professionals and facilities for avoiding inappropriate interactions with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry.
3. To ensure a consistent approach to relationships with pharmaceutical representatives throughout the VHA system, clinicians are encouraged to review this report and incorporate its recommendations into policies and procedures where appropriate. The report is available from the National Center for Ethics in Health Care at: [http://vaww.va.gov/vhaethics/resources\\_4.cfm](http://vaww.va.gov/vhaethics/resources_4.cfm).
4. Questions may be directed to Ellen Fox, M.D. (10E), Director, National Center for Ethics in Health Care, at (202) 501-0364.

S/Robert H. Roswell, M.D.  
Under Secretary for Health

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