

Consulting Management Committee
UCHC Request for Action #2

Date: January 28, 2008

Submitted by: Scott Wetstone, Director of the UCHC Faculty Consulting Office

Description of Issue

A faculty member participates in the negotiations of contracts between managed care organizations and the University Medical Group. He has been asked to serve on a panel that uses the tools of evidence based medicine to provide advice on what new medical approaches should be allowed and paid for by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plans. This expert panel was created and funded by a national organization whose goal is to support the state specific Anthem plans.

Total compensation is well below the \$10,000 threshold suggested in UCHC Request for Recommendations #1 and is appropriate in consideration of the time and effort being expended by the faculty member.

My question related to this case is:

- 1) Do the standards established in CMC Recommendations #1, which were intended for situations in which the contracting entity was a vendor or potential vendor of medical or dental supplies, equipment or pharmaceuticals, also apply when the contracting entity is a health insurance payer?

Previous Opinion(s) of the Office of State Ethics

No know specific rulings applicable to this case.

Discussion

The faculty member's role in providing expert advice may be considered a benefit not only to the enrollees of the specific health insurance plans but in establishing national practice patterns in general. This could well be a public good on a national scale.

Recommendations:

The Consulting Management Committee should recommend to the Provost and EVP:

- 1) That the rules established in its Recommendations #1 that apply in situations in which the contracting entity is a vendor or potential vendor of medical or dental supplies, equipment or pharmaceuticals, also apply in this case.

CMC Response

On January 31, 2008, the Consulting Management Committee unanimously approved the recommendation as written above.