


# Patient group interaction and disclosure of support

*During the last years both national and international patient advocacy groups have expanded and evolved the active role patients can play in the optimal provision of healthcare. They support patients through disease education, help lines, emotional support, access to treatment and a credible voice within a healthcare system. Patient groups partner with a number of stakeholders including pharmaceutical companies on projects ranging from researching the impact of an illness on patients and their families, raising public awareness of specific diseases to even facilitating participation in clinical trials of innovative medicines. Recently politicians and the media became interested in these relationships and are seeking to ensure independence of the patient voice. To foster this goal, companies and patient organizations are increasing their transparency regarding the fact and nature of their interactions.*

## **Novartis Position**

Novartis is committed to research and development of treatments for patients with unmet medical need. We believe that open dialogue and transparent exchange of information with all stakeholders in the healthcare community including patient organizations is vital to advancing access and healthcare delivery to patients.

As we share balanced, accurate and easy-to-understand scientific information on diseases, treatments (where permissible by law) and health policies impacting patients, we gain valuable insights and counsel about patient concerns and needs. Patient groups can use information gained in this dialogue and thus enable patients to act with increased accountability and gain access to optimal treatment for their condition.



In all Novartis' interactions with patient groups, we strive to build relationships based on mutual respect and transparency. We have developed internal guidelines on interacting with patient groups to establish consistently high standards of conduct. Ensuring independence of the patient voice, providing transparency on interactions and working cooperatively for the benefits of patients are at the core of these standards.

With regards to disclosure of patient group support Novartis is fully compliant with all legal and statutory requirements as a minimum standard in a given country. In addition we commit to publish on [www.Novartis.com](http://www.Novartis.com)<sup>1</sup> the names of patient groups that receive financial and non-financial support from us in Europe and the United States as well as the purpose of this support. This listing is updated annually.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.novartis.com/about-novartis/corporate-citizenship/patients/patient-safety.shtml>