



Open Payments FAQs: Saol's Commitment to Transparency with the Healthcare Community

This FAQ is directed to healthcare professionals and serves to answer any questions related to the Open Payments Program and Saol's responsibilities under it. CMS has a website dedicated to Open Payments which includes its own FAQs and a specific section on information for physicians.

Open Payments FAQ

1. What is the Open Payments Program?

The Open Payments Program (formerly known as the "Sunshine Act") is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 that requires pharmaceutical and medical device companies to report certain payments (or other transfers of value) to the Federal government, specifically to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Open Payments also requires companies to report any physician ownership or investment interests. The data is publicly available by June 30th of each year for the previous calendar year's payments.

2. What types of payments must be reported?

Saol must report payments and other transfers of value made to US Physicians and Teaching Hospitals. This includes:

- Cost of meals provided to Physicians in any setting;
- Payments as part of a contracted service (e.g., speaker programs, advisory boards, consulting, market research, clinical trials); and
- Other transfers of value (e.g., travel, educational items, stocks, grants, and reimbursable expenses such as hotel and travel arrangements).

3. What level of detail will the report have? Will it categorize payments and transfers of value by activity type (e.g., speaker programs, advisory boards, clinical trials)?

Each line item that Saol reports to CMS will be available on the public report in detail, including, but not limited to:

- Applicable Manufacturer's Name
- Name of teaching hospital or physician
- Specialty (physician only)
- Business address
- Amount of payment or other transfer of value
- Date of payment
- Form of payment (e.g., cash, in-kind items or services, stock)
- Nature of payment (e.g., consulting, food, travel, education)



- Name(s) of the related covered drug, as applicable

4. Can I opt-out from having my information reported by Saol?

If you receive a transfer of value from Saol, Saol is required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to report that information to CMS. However, if you attend a Saol-sponsored event, you have the option to opt-out of receiving Saol's in-kind benefits (e.g., meals, reprints) at the program. If you choose to opt-out, you may either pay for that benefit directly or not consume anything at the event that Saol is sponsoring. This includes any in-office interactions where a Saol sales personnel may be providing meals, reprints or other in-kind benefits approved for distribution. Please inform the Saol representative at the event if it is your intention to opt-out.

5. Where will reported payments be posted?

All payments submitted to CMS will be publicly available at this link by June 30th of each year at <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov>.

6. Will meals provided to nurses and office staff be reported??

Meals provided to nurses and office staff are not reportable to CMS and will not be attributed to their associated physicians. However, some state marketing disclosure laws require disclosure of all payments to a broader group of recipients, including nurses and office staff.

7. If I am contracted to perform work for Saol, and I direct Saol to pay my fee to another entity instead of me personally, how will that be reported?

Saol will report the payment, including any reimbursable expenses, under your name and will list the entity paid as the third-party recipient on the same line item.

8. If I am paid by a third-party vendor, is my fee still reportable?

Yes, if you are paid by a third-party vendor for work that is conducted on behalf of Saol, then Saol must report your fee and any other transfers of value you receive. This includes any market research activities in which Saol knows of the Physician recipient even though the Physician may not know that it was Saol who engaged the third-party vendor to conduct the market research activity (i.e., single-blinded market research).

9. What if I attend an independent/certified medical education activity that is supported by Saol?

If you attend an independent/certified medical education activity that is supported by Saol and where a meal is served, the value of an individual meal may be reported in your name *if* the organizer used Saol funds to purchase the meals and provide the list of attendees to Saol upon conclusion of the activity.



10. Can I dispute any payments attributed to me?

Yes. CMS has provided physicians with access to a secure website, so you can review the payments and transfers of value attributed to you and dispute them if necessary. The Act provides a 45-day review period for physicians and teaching hospitals to review the data submitted prior to the data being made publicly available. For more information on where to go for the dispute process, please go to CMS' website at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/National-Physician-Payment-Transparency-Program/Dispute-and-Resolution.html>.

11. If I have further questions, whom may I contact?

For more information on Saol's Open Payments reporting practices, please submit questions to info@saolrx.com.