

The ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry sets standards for the promotion of medicines for prescribing to health professionals and the provision of information to the public about prescription only medicines. Publicity is the main sanction when breaches of the Code are ruled. The latest cases ruled in breach of Clause 2 of the Code (a sign of particular censure) are highlighted below.

Camurus, Accord, Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (Sobi) and Strides Pharma have breached the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry and brought discredit upon, and reduced confidence in, the pharmaceutical industry.

Camurus – Case AUTH/3318/3/20

For providing hospitality to a health professional after the health professional and Camurus staff had attended a football match together, Camurus was ruled in breach of the following clauses of the Code:

Clause 2 - Bringing discredit upon, and reducing confidence in, the pharmaceutical industry

Clause 9.1 - Failing to maintain high standardsClause 22.1 - Providing inappropriate hospitality

Accord - Case AUTH/3339/4/20

For promoting cisatracurium, midazolam and paracetamol for injection/infusion on LinkedIn, Accord was ruled in breach of the following clauses of the Code:

Clause 2 - Bringing discredit upon, and reducing confidence in, the pharmaceutical industry

Clause 9.1 - Failing to maintain high standards
Clause 26.1 - Advertising prescription only medicines to the public.

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum (Sobi) – Case AUTH/3345/5/20

For failing to include accurate information about the side effects of Alprolix (eftrenonacog alfa) and not reflecting the available information, Sobi was ruled in breach of the following clauses of the Code:

Clause 2 - Bringing discredit upon, and reducing confidence in, the pharmaceutical industry

Clause 7.2 - Making a misleading claim

Clause 7.4 - Making an unsubstantiated claim

Clause 7.9 - Making claims that did not reflect the available evidence regarding

possible adverse reactions

Clause 9.1 - Failing to maintain high standards.

Strides Pharma – Case AUTH/3347/5/20

For promoting Strivit D3 (colecalciferol) on LinkedIn, Strides Pharma was ruled in breach of the following clauses of the Code:

Clause 2 - Bringing discredit upon, and reducing confidence in, the pharmaceutical industry

Clause 9.1 - Failing to maintain high standards

Clause 26.1 - Advertising a prescription only medicine

to the public.

The case reports are available at www.pmcpa.org.uk.

The Prescription Medicines Code of Practice Authority (PMCPA) was established by The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) to operate the ABPI Code of Practice for the Pharmaceutical Industry independently of the ABPI. The PMCPA is a division of the ABPI. The Code covers the promotion of medicines for prescribing to health professionals and the provision of information to the public about prescription only medicines.

If you have any concerns about the activities of pharmaceutical companies in this regard, please contact the PMCPA at 7th Floor, 105 Victoria St, London, SW1E 6QT or email: complaints@pmcpa.org.uk.

The Code and other information, including details about ongoing cases, can be found on the PMCPA website: www.pmcpa.org.uk.