



**San Antonio Uniformed Services  
Health Education Consortium  
San Antonio, Texas**

**Vendor Interaction Policy**

1. Reference documents for this policy include Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) Memo 715-5, dated 8 Apr 2009 and 59th Medical Wing (59th MDW) Memo, Gifts of Food or Beverages from Vendors and Other Commercial Activities, April 13, 2009.
2. Federal ethics policies specify that commercial vendors may only provide gifts to staff and resident physicians in accordance with the following guidelines. It is permissible for physicians to accept gifts from vendors with a market value of \$20 or less per source, per occasion, provided the total value of the gifts received from one source under this rule in a calendar year does not exceed \$50. Anything with an intrinsic value is counted toward the \$20/\$50 rule – coffee mugs, calendars, pens – based on fair market value determinations.
3. BAMC and 59th MDW absolutely prohibit vendors from bringing food or beverages onto BAMC or WHMC premises for distribution to any physician or patient. No exceptions will be made to this provision.
4. SAUSHEC supports complete prohibition of industry gifts and sets a standard higher than that mandated by federal ethics regulations. We strongly discourage fellows, residents and medical students from accepting gifts of any dollar value within SAUSHEC facilities (Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center). We know that when gifts bearing a product or company name are visible to patients, there is an implied suggestion that SAUSHEC endorses that product or company. To enforce this principle, SAUSHEC recommends that no gifts be distributed to physicians or medical students within SAUSHEC facilities.
5. Representatives of medical device or pharmaceutical companies who wish to sponsor SAUSHEC medical education programs are requested to follow the federal government's approved, gifting process. Gifts made in accordance with federal government regulations provide industry an appropriate way to support graduate medical education.
6. SAUSHEC medical centers provide vendors with facility access under strictly enforced guidelines. For example, vendors are prohibited from wandering through patient care areas in hopes of "running into" staff or residents for the purpose of detailing their products. Residents must not provide vendors with access to peers or supervisors. Similarly, residents are NEVER authorized to approve purchases of products, supplies or equipment sold by vendors.