Academic
Physician
Journal
Publication Professional
Government
Industry
Professional Society
Net

Indexed
Nonindexed

Results (cont’d)

Articles About the Implications of the Sunshine Act for Medical Publications

- Only a small portion of the Sunshine Act discussed its implications for medical publications.
- Even fewer publications distinguished between monetary payments and nonmonetary transfers of value to physicians.

Potential Influence of Sunshine Act on Publications

- Among indexed articles that discussed the Sunshine Act and publications, many described its potential to improve reporting of conflicts of interest and create greater transparency.
- In sum, the Physician Payments Sunshine Act will bring greater opportunities for managing conflict of interest, but the long-term prospects remain unclear — it is possible that multiparticipant and individual behavior will improve on transparency financially.

*2015 data through February 17, 2015, not shown: peer-reviewed publications, n = 3; nonindexed publications, n = 1.

Definition of covered recipients excludes physician employees of repackaging manufacturers.

Introduction

- The number of peer-reviewed and nonindexed publications about the Sunshine Act has increased substantially since it was enacted.
- The potential impact of the Sunshine Act on peer-reviewed publications has not been systematically evaluated.

Research Design and Methods

- We systematically searched for indexed and nonindexed articles that contained terms indicative of the Sunshine Act.
- Additional relevant publications identified by 9 reviewers (all publication professionals) were added from ad hoc searches.

Results

- Among 1158 unique indexed articles captured in our search, 107 focused on the Sunshine Act.
- 109 nonindexed citations were identified that discussed the Sunshine Act.

- There appears to be limited awareness that publication support may be reported as a transfer of value to physicians.
- Some have raised concern that misunderstandings of the nature of Sunshine Act disclosures (particularly with respect to publications) will bring greater opportunities for managing conflicts of interest.
- A transparency report could delay the dissemination of important research findings because some investigators will choose not to participate in a publication effort that will be associated with a report of an imputed payment to CMS, particularly if the resulting publication is not of high importance to their institution.

Acknowledgments

- This study was funded by Amgen Inc.
- The authors acknowledge James Balwit, MS (Complete Healthcare Communications, Inc., Chadds Ford, PA), whose work was funded by Amgen Inc.

Conclusions

- There is remarkably little literature on the impact of the Sunshine Act on peer-reviewed publications.
- There appears to be limited awareness that publication support may be reported as a transfer of value to physicians.
- The Sunshine Act has the potential to improve transparency in relationships between physicians and industry (including transparency with respect to publications).
- However, some have raised concern that misunderstandings of the nature of Sunshine Act disclosures (particularly with respect to nonmonetary transfers of value) may limit involvement of US physicians in peer-reviewed publications with industry support.

References

5. Citrome L. JAMA 2014;311:14-16

Table: Potential Influence of Sunshine Act on Publications

- Among indexed articles that discussed the Sunshine Act and publications, many described its potential to improve reporting of conflicts of interest and create greater transparency.
- In sum, the Physician Payments Sunshine Act will bring greater opportunities for managing conflict of interest, but the long-term prospects remain unclear — it is possible that multiparticipant and individual behavior will improve on transparency financially.