



ANTITRUST GUIDELINES FOR NETWORK MEETINGS AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Group activities involving competitors are inherently suspect under current federal and state antitrust laws. At the same time, it is well-established that many meetings or other joint activities among competitors may be beneficial and pose little or no risk under current antitrust principles PROVIDED certain reasonable precautions are adopted and followed. The network acknowledges that it - and its participants – take all antitrust obligations seriously, and through this reminder seeks to avoid even the appearance of questionable practices.

The **DOs** and **DON'Ts** presented below are a reminder of the most basic antitrust principles; however, each network participant should consult his/her own counsel regarding specific situations, interpretations, or advice. Moreover, the availability of these guidelines should not invite probing to determine how far questionable conduct may proceed before it becomes improper and is cut off; each individual is responsible in the first instance for avoiding improper conduct or topics of discussion which might jeopardize everyone else.

DO

DON'T

1. Have a prepared agenda for all meetings, teleconferences, and other planned discussions...and follow it. Agendas need not present exhaustive detail but should be sufficient to give an outside reader some sense of the topics covered. Retain copies of all agendas in the network's records.
2. Limit discussions to the topics on the agenda unless approved by all parties to the discussion.
3. Take and retain copies of reasonably detailed minutes of all planned discussions.
4. Consultant counsel if at any time you have questions about the appropriateness of a potential or actual topic for an agenda
5. Understand the purpose and authority of each group meeting or discussion in which you participate.
6. Protest any discussion or activities which may lead to, or which may give the appearance of, a violation of antitrust prescriptions and proscriptions. Announce your disassociation from any such discussions or activities and leave any forum in which they continue

1. Discuss pricing (e.g. charges to patients, third-party payors, or others) or those of any other company or individual
2. Discuss Any element of price or pricing policy, including price changes, price levels, price differentials, mark-ups, margins, profits, discounts, allowances, credit terms, etc
3. Discuss particular competitors or customers;
4. Discuss warranties, guarantees, terms or conditions of sale or other policies affecting prices
5. Discuss your bid activities, or procedures, or decisions to quote or not to quote on behalf of your company.

Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Date _____