

**Policy Memorandum No. 34**  
**Subject:** Industrial Interaction  
**Departments Affected:** All

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**Original Release Date:** April 1991  
**Revision Date:** October 2024

## INDUSTRIAL INTERACTION

SWOG Cancer Research Network is a clinical trials network funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Group's primary mission is to advance the prevention and cure of cancer through clinical research. A key element in fulfilling this mission is the commitment to generating and disseminating knowledge for the public good. The Group has long maintained a close relationship with industry partners, a relationship that has thrived because it is built on the belief that knowledge and discoveries arise from all sectors of society, and the flow of knowledge is never one-way.

To ensure the free exchange of information and generation of public knowledge, the Group will not enter into or renew any contract with an industry collaborator that restricts its freedom to disclose the existence of the document, the identity of any research collaborators, or the purpose and scope of the proposed research. Furthermore, the Group does not accept grants, contracts, or agreements that limit its members' ability to publish or otherwise disseminate research results, in accordance with Group Policy #24 (Procedural Guidelines for all SWOG Publications) and related policies.

To better safeguard patient safety in Group clinical trials, industry collaborators are prohibited from advertising, publishing, or otherwise disclosing information about a proposed trial to the public prior to contract execution and study activation, unless they obtain approval from the Group's authorized officials. Once a contract is executed and the trial is activated, any press release referencing the study or its results, or using the other party's name or trademarks, must be reviewed and approved by both parties before publication. Both parties must agree to remove any confidential information, previously identified as such, from the press release before its release. No references to the study, its results, or the use of the other party's name or trademarks for promotional or advertising purposes are allowed without prior written consent.

When collaborating with industry partners, it is essential that the Group's identity as a consortium of academic institutions and hospitals, community hospitals, community-based physician cooperatives, and individual physician offices is clearly represented and preserved. Therefore, individual investigators are not authorized to commit Group resources to any collaborative studies with industry without formal notification and approval from the Group's Network Operation Center. The development of any contract will be managed by the Network Operations Center.

There may be instances where a SWOG Investigator, Committee Chair, Study Chair, or Statistician is approached by an industry collaborator, or vice versa, for reasons such as:

- Potential collaboration of any sort;
- Access to Group data or tumor bank specimens;
- Supply or distribution of a drug for a study;
- Financial support for a clinical trial or ancillary study;
- Funding for the Group as a whole or any subset, committee, or office

If any of these situations arise, the following steps must be taken:

1. The applicable Executive Officer must be notified immediately in writing (via email or otherwise) by the Group Investigator, Committee Chair, Study Chair, or Statistician who has had contact with an industry collaborator.
2. The individual who initiated communication with the industry must inform their contact that all negotiations must be conducted through the Group's appropriate administrative personnel.

This open communication will facilitate prompt action to conclude negotiations with the industry collaborator and ensure that all relevant Group members are kept informed. All negotiations leading to a final contract will be managed by the Group Network Operations Center. These negotiations must result in a contract that aligns with National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Program Guidelines, grant award restrictions, awarding agency requirements, federal regulations, and Group policies and procedures.

All final contracts must be approved and signed by the Group Chair and SWOG-CTP, when applicable.