

## **Merck Statement on PhRMA Revised Marketing Code**

July 10, 2008

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) announced that its Executive Committee adopted measures to enhance the PhRMA Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals and Merck today issued the following statement:

"Informative, ethical and professional relationships between healthcare providers and America's pharmaceutical research companies are instrumental to effective patient care," said Richard T. Clark, PhRMA Chairman and Chairman and CEO, Merck & Co., Inc. "We take this responsibility seriously and are constantly reexamining ways we can enhance these essential company-physician interactions and reinforce the integrity of information about our medicines."

Merck will be developing and implementing any necessary updates to our policies and practices during the next several months to address changes in the Code such as establishing a cap on the total annual compensation that can be paid to individuals for speaking on behalf of the Company.

When the Code changes become effective in early 2009, Merck intends to complete self-certification of our compliance policies and procedures and then pursue verification from an external third party.

Many of the Code updates do not require changes to Merck's current practices. For example, Merck already follows the standards for commercial support of Continuing Medical Education established by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education, and Merck's compliance program already requires that Company representatives be periodically assessed to ensure that they comply with relevant Company policies and standards of conduct.

For more information on the PhRMA Code, [click here](#).