

Below is a Patient Disclosure Letter that your office could revise to reflect the individual circumstances regarding financial arrangements and/or consulting agreements between physicians and implant manufacturers.

AAOS cannot provide individualized counsel because of the unique and confidential facts, circumstances and contractual provisions governing relationships between physicians and implant manufacturers. AAOS advises members to be truthful and factually accurate in answers to patients and to follow both the Code of Medical Ethics and Professionalism for Orthopaedic Surgeons as well as the Standards of Professionalism on Orthopaedist – Industry Conflicts of Interest which require AAOS members to disclose potential conflicts of interests to patients.

Patient Disclosure: Consulting Agreements with Orthopaedic Companies

Dear Patient:

As you prepare for your upcoming surgery, we want to provide you with some information regarding Dr. **Name of physician**'s consulting agreements with orthopaedic companies.

Dr. **Name** has been active in his career with research and development of new implants and improved surgical instruments and techniques. As part of this work, **he/she** has worked under contract with orthopaedic companies, providing consulting services on new products and input on research and development. In addition, Dr. **Name** has given instructional lectures on implants and surgical techniques for other doctors and medical personnel. In return for this time and expertise, Dr. **Name** has been paid a consulting fee.

Currently, Dr. **Name** is a paid consultant to **[names of companies.]**

Our office uses products from **this company/these companies** in the care of patients, but also uses similar products from other implant manufacturers. We want to assure you that the selection of which product to use in your care – and the care of all of our patients – is based only on what is best for the patient, not on which company makes the product.

I am a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, (AAOS) which holds its members to extremely high ethical standards to ensure that even the appearance of a conflict of interest does not jeopardize the trust that patients place in our doctors.

AAOS has adopted Standards of Professionalism that require orthopaedic surgeon members to identify and disclose potential conflicts of interest to their patients, the public, and colleagues. These Standards also clearly articulate how and under what circumstances AAOS members may work with and be compensated by industry, as well as the penalties for failure to comply.

You can learn more about these Standards of Professionalism at the AAOS website:
<http://www.aaos.org/industryrelationships>

It is important to our office that you are aware of these relationships with implant manufacturers, that our office puts the interests of patients first, and that we are available to answer any questions that you may have.

Patient Signature

Date