



**Association of
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Guidelines for AAMC Communications Channels: Expectations and Rules

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To ensure the best possible experience for all constituents – including in virtual communities, or at conferences, meetings, committee sessions, and other AAMC-hosted gatherings – the AAMC has established the following expectations and rules for AAMC communications channels.

Acceptance of AAMC Communications Expectations and Rules

By using AAMC communications channels, you agree that you have read and will follow these expectations and rules throughout your participation (“Expectations and Rules”). If you have any questions about these expectations and rules, please reach out to your affinity group constituent engagement leader or your AAMC staff contact.

You understand that the AAMC reserves the right to revise these expectations and rules from time to time without providing notice to you. Your continued use of AAMC communications channels after such revision marks your acceptance of the expectations and rules as revised. We recommend that you review these expectations and rules regularly, as they are subject to change.

The AAMC reserves the right to suspend or terminate your participation if you do not comply with these expectations and rules.

The Rules

Antitrust and Competition

- No communication may contain information that violates antitrust laws.
- The antitrust laws generally prohibit agreements among competitors on price, salaries, or other topics affecting the ways they compete against each other. Those laws can also prohibit talking about those topics or exchanging information if that discussion or exchange leads to a lessening of competition. The antitrust laws apply to for-profit and nonprofit institutions, including colleges, universities, and hospitals, and prohibit agreements reducing competition for students, medical residents, doctors, and other employees.
- In light of these prohibitions, do not communicate for the purpose of agreeing with others, or post any non-public material on competitively sensitive topics such as:
 - Current or future prices, billing rates, billing procedures, managed care discounts, or reimbursement levels;
 - Tuition, fees, financial aid methodologies, awards, or packages;
 - Salaries, wages, stipends, fringe benefits, or any terms of employment;
 - Credit terms;
 - Statements about what constitutes fair, appropriate, or “rational” price or profit margins;
 - Confidential business or strategic plans regarding future product or service offerings;
 - Statements about allocating markets or encouraging collective activity against third-party payers, hospitals, suppliers, or other entities;
 - Statements inviting others not to compete in any market;
 - Statements about boycotting another’s business;
 - Statements disparaging the business practices of individual organizations, suppliers, or others; and

- Information that could otherwise reasonably be construed as an agreement or invitation to reduce competition.
- Do not communicate any non-public information about any ongoing litigation relating to antitrust, employment matters, or other topics.

Note: you may communicate factual information about your personal experience with a product or service if you have been asked for such information. Please contact individuals directly with product and service information if you believe it would help them.

Commercial in nature

- AAMC communications channels are not intended for third-party commercial messages or administrative support for third-party products or services, unless the third-party product or service is a precondition to the successful use of one of the AAMC services (e.g., resident matching and licensure exam organizations).
 - “Third party commercial messages” are messages with the purpose of advertising or promoting a non-AAMC commercial product or service. A reference to a third-party product or service, or a link to a third-party website, is acceptable provided that the purpose of sharing the information is not to advertise or promote a third-party product or service. Advertising or promoting third-party products or services includes links intended to gather contact leads in exchange for resources, webinars, etc.
 - “Administrative support” includes information that could reasonably be sought directly from the third-party product or service (e.g., user guidance, troubleshooting).
 - Note: AAMC generally makes certain other opportunities available for third party commercial actors, such as mailing lists, sponsorships, and exhibit hall space available at widely attended AAMC conferences and meetings.
- AAMC policy prohibits the use of virtual communities to advertise job openings. However, position announcements that appear on the AAMC’s CareerConnect may be linked in the virtual communities.

Copyright

- Respect copyrights of others.
- By sharing material, you represent you either own the copyright with respect to such material or have received permission from the copyright owner to share.

Courtesy

- Don’t attack others. The discussions and comments are meant to stimulate conversation and not to create contention. Let others have their say, just as you may.
- All defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal communications or materials are strictly prohibited. Do not communicate anything that you would not want the world to see, or that you would not want anyone to know came from you.

No Confidentiality

- Think before sharing confidential information. The burden is on you to be sensitive to the contents of what you share.

Politics

- Do not post statements in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate for public office.

Community Rules for Sharing Surveys & Research Opportunities

- **Non-AAMC Surveys:** We allow the sharing of non-AAMC surveys in the designated *Surveys & Research Opportunities* [sub-community](#) of the AAMC Communities Network (*login required to access*). No other AAMC Communication Channel permits the sharing of non-AAMC surveys.
- Failure to follow the [Community Rules for Sharing Surveys & Research Opportunities](#) may result in the removal of your post(s) or other actions deemed necessary by AAMC virtual community managers.

Disclaimer

The AAMC is not responsible for the opinions and information communicated by third parties, including but not limited to its constituents. In no event shall the AAMC be liable for any special, indirect, or consequential damages, or any damages whatsoever resulting from loss of use, data, or profits arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of any information communicated.