



## DARA CORRIGAN BYLINE ARTICLE

# Open Payments: What You Need to Know

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Are you a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, anesthesiologist assistant, or a certified nurse midwife? Certain payments you may receive from drug and medical device companies may be reported by drug and medical device companies to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for public disclosure as of calendar year 2021.

**What is Open Payments?** Open Payments is a national disclosure program that promotes a more transparent and accountable healthcare system. Drug and medical device companies must report to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) payments and other transfers of value they make to certain individual healthcare providers and teaching hospitals for research, meals, travel, gifts, speaking fees, and more. Each year, CMS makes the data available to the public at [openpaymentsdata.cms.gov](https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov).

**Why is Open Payments so important?** Open Payments gives the public more information about the financial relationships between certain providers, teaching hospitals, and drug and device manufacturers and distributors. Since Open Payments began in 2013, CMS has published \$59.52 billion in payments from more than 2,000 companies to over 1.08 million physicians and 1,000 teaching hospitals.

**Where do you fit into Open Payments?** Providers, including physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, anesthesiologist assistants, certified nurse midwives, and teaching hospitals are considered [covered recipients](#) for Open Payments reporting. Throughout the year, certain payments or transfers of value made to covered recipients by reporting entities ([applicable manufacturers or applicable group purchasing organizations](#)) are documented and reported to CMS's Open Payments program, which makes the reported data available to the public every June. CMS allows pre-publication review by covered recipients each year starting April 1 through May 15 prior to making the data publicly available to help ensure the data is accurate.

Stay connected with the program by visiting the [Contact Us page](#) and signing up for emails so that you are ready for next steps— including registering with [Open Payments](#) and reviewing your data by May 15 before it is released to the public in June. Though registration and review of your data is voluntary, participation is strongly encouraged to ensure your data is displayed correctly and to preserve the overall accuracy of the Open Payments database.



**More questions?** Go to [cms.gov/OpenPayments](https://cms.gov/OpenPayments) for more information or visit [openpaymentsdata.cms.gov](https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov) to view the data. Thank you for helping to ensure the Open Payments database is an accurate and useful tool for patients and communities for years to come.