

Majority of internists still have financial ties to industry

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(HealthDay)—A majority of internists still report financial ties to

industry, according to a study published online Oct. 5 in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

Aaron S. Kesselheim, M.D., J.D., from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and colleagues conducted a national survey of [internal medicine](#) physicians (500 clinically active internists, 500 endocrinologists, 500 cardiologists) to assess how their financial relationships with industry have changed.

Based on 686 responses (59 percent male; 72 percent specialists), the researchers found that 72 percent of respondents reported any financial tie to industry. The most common benefits received were free drug samples (55 percent) and food or beverage in (48 percent) and outside (30 percent) the workplace. Fewer physicians reported receiving small gifts (8 percent) or payments for consulting (4 percent) or service on a scientific advisory board (3 percent). Specialists reported more meals than internists at work and outside of work in 2017. In 2017, fewer internal [medicine](#) physicians reported receiving all types of financial payment, compared with 2009, with the greatest decreases related to food/beverage or tickets to sporting or cultural events (75 versus 42 percent) and speakers bureaus/consulting/advisory boards (18 versus 2 percent).

"What the survey revealed is that while financial [industry](#) ties have fallen some over the past decade, a majority of doctors still reported them," a coauthor said in a statement. "This is particularly concerning when you consider that free samples, which are among the most common financial tie reported, have been linked to the prescribing of high-cost brand-name drugs over lower-cost generic alternatives."

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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