

Convention on Health Analysis and Management

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Personal interest: what's the issue?

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Does personal interest necessarily lead to conflicts of interest? Who would like to entrust their health to a doctor who has other interests at heart? While conflicts of interest are obviously undesirable, personal interest may be required for there to be an effective partnership between the public and private sectors. In order to ensure that these connections do not generate conflicts of interest, transparency is indispensable and a key ingredient in maintaining trust.

1. From conflicts of interest to common interests: the general interest

Connections between private and public operators should serve the common interest: the health of the population.

2. Might personal interest stifle social innovation?

While personal interest manifests a common goal, it should not give rise to agreements that might adversely affect scientific competition, operational excellence and social innovation.

3. Competency: the best way to ensure independence

Transparency applied consistently and homogeneously ensures that personal interest is declared. In such a system, a high level of competency allows the various connections to be distinguished. Transparency is absolutely necessary, but not sufficient to prevent potential conflicts of interest.

4. Transparency and competency

Ensuring a high degree of transparency must not render collaboration impossible. While necessary, transparency must also allow the most highly skilled operators to work together.

5. Between a lack of personal interest and disinterest

Striving for a complete absence of personal interest would be harmful. This situation would lead to confrontations between operators without any common interest, disengaged from each other and taking a militant stance, which would inevitably lead to situations of conflict.