

SIR Policy on Gainsharing

SIR members' first clinical, and ethical responsibility is to their patients. Furthermore, maintenance of the physician-patient relationship is paramount. SIR recognizes the potential opportunities for improving efficiency and health outcomes when physicians and hospitals work together, so long as any financial incentive does not compromise patient care or create an apparent (or real) conflict of interest between the patient and the physician.

The objective of any gainsharing arrangement should be to improve the quality and efficiency of care delivered to patients, not provide incentives for physicians to limit care or to limit their access to medical technologies. Such gainsharing should be structured in such a manner as to preclude any remuneration to any physician participating in the project on the basis of limiting access to or choice of any medical device or for utilizing a particular brand of device.

SIR members are advised to consider thoroughly the short-term and long-term ramifications on patient care and innovation, as well as the legal consequences, before entering into a gainsharing arrangement with hospitals. The best interest of the patient should always be placed above economic benefits in such relationships.

Approved by the SIR Executive Council on March 29, 2006.