

**University of Wisconsin Department of Family Medicine**  
**CLINICAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**TITLE: Drug Sample Policy**

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008

**Approval:** Vice Chair of Clinical Care

**Supersedes Policy:** Drug Sample Workgroup Recommendations October 16, 2003

**Contact:** DFM Vice Chair of Clinical Care

Reviewed				

**SCOPE:** Applies to all DFM residency and UWMF primary care family physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for DFM family physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants that provide care in DFM residency and UWMF managed clinics regarding the use and storage of drug samples.

**DEFINITIONS: Drug Samples** – Medications supplied by pharmacy representatives for trial or continuing use which are stored in clinics, dispensed by clinicians to patients, and are not received through industry Patient Assistance Programs.

**POLICY:**

1. Family physicians who practice in DFM residency or UWMF managed primary care clinics shall not store or dispense drug samples to patients.
2. For those patients who are unable to afford needed medications, clinicians are urged to use the discounted generic choices available through several major pharmacies. UW Health Patient Resources is also available for accessing pharmacy assistance plans for indigent patients.

**RATIONALE:**

The Drug Sample Workgroup Recommendations of October 16, 2003 outlined seven main reasons for development of this policy. Use of free drug sampling may:

- a. Result in prescriber bias and non-rational prescribing
- b. Compromise resident education
- c. Compromise patient safety
- d. Increase pharmacy costs for individuals and communities
- e. Produce conflicts of interest
6. Provide free samples inequitably
7. Increase liability and cost for the Department of Family medicine.

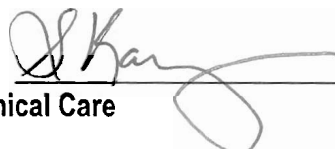
Further details and references for these reasons are included in the original document. Since 2003, there has been additional research supporting a "no drug sampling" policy.

**BASED ON: Drug Sample Workgroup Recommendations: UW Medical School, Department of Family Medicine, October 16, 2003, Byron Marquez, DO Chair of Workgroup**

**REVISED ON: 06/24/2008**

**REVIEWED BY: DFM Clinical Care Committee**

**AUTHORIZED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
DFM Vice Chair of Clinical Care



**Date**