

Policy Direction – Prohibition of Payment of Indirect Costs of Health Research

Rationale and Relationship to Vision, Mission, and Values

From its earliest days, MS Canada has been a major funder of MS research through a program that funds university and hospital-based research projects and research personnel awards.

Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to ensure that MS Canada research expenditures are used to fund specific research projects and research personnel and are not used to fund indirect costs of research. Indirect costs of research are general expenditures that a university, hospital or research institution incurs in the overall conduct of research but are not related to specific research activities.

Policy Application

The policy applies to all MS Canada funded researchers, volunteers and staff at all levels of the organization. The policy is effective on the date of approval.

Authorization

The policy was approved by the Board of Directors November 20, 2009.

Policy Details

MS Canada has the obligation to target funds raised from donors to research projects and research personnel with the goal of accelerating the discovery of the cause, prevention and cure for multiple sclerosis in the shortest possible time. MS Canada funds cannot be used to cover university, hospital or other research institutions' indirect costs.

Executive Champion

The MS Canada Senior Vice-President, Mission, is the executive champion for the Policy Direction - Prohibition of Payment of Indirect Costs of Health Research.

MS Canada – Policy Manual	
<i>Applies to:</i>	All volunteers and staff at all levels
<i>Frequency of review:</i>	Five years or less
<i>First approved:</i>	November 20, 2009 by Board of Directors
<i>Last reviewed:</i>	February 24, 2020
<i>Next scheduled review:</i>	February 2025

Monitoring and Compliance

The Senior Vice-President, Mission, is responsible for leading the monitoring of the application and compliance of this policy direction.

Related Policies, Legislation

This policy direction draws on the Position Statement on Indirect Costs of Research issued by the Health Charities Coalition of Canada and similar policies of other health charities that fund research.

Policy Review

The policy direction is to be reviewed at a minimum every five years following approval.

Definitions

Direct costs of research – Expenditures that are directly associated with a research project (e.g., laboratory materials, technician salaries, authorized travel) or a research personnel award (e.g., fellowship or studentship).

Indirect costs of research – Expenditures that a university, hospital or other research institution incurs related to the overall conduct of research. Examples of indirect costs are: maintaining buildings, heating, lighting, managing the research process, ethics reviews, management of intellectual property, environmental assessment and safety compliance.

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