

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of  
Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to enter into an agreement with ArborMetrix  
(University of Michigan Employee Justin Dimick, MD, MPH, Co-Founder)

Background:

The University of Michigan Department of Surgery seeks approval to enter into an agreement with ArborMetrix to provide and implement a measurement and reporting platform to support the quality improvement initiative entitled the Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative (MBSC). ArborMetrix will provide an electronic system for facilitating cost-effective collection of specific clinical and administrative data at participating physician offices, including decision support tools to facilitate patient and surgeon decisions, measuring risk and reliability-adjusted outcomes, reported through application dashboards.

The proposed agreement falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute as Dr. Justin Dimick is a University employee in the Department of Surgery and would be party to the agreement as Co-Founder of ArborMetrix.

However, the Statute allows the University to enter into such agreements if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body which has power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
  - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
  - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Department of Surgery and ArborMetrix.
- ii) The agreement will provide the University with software licensing, maintenance, and analytical tools to support the quality improvement initiative entitled the Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative (MBSC). The term of agreement is for 3 years ending on 8/15/2017 for a total cost of \$525,000 consisting of 3 subscription payments of \$175,000 each, paid annually.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee Dr. Justin Dimick is Co-Founder of ArborMetrix.

Dr. Justin Dimick has met state law requirements with the disclosure of his pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable under the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the agreement between the University of Michigan and ArborMetrix subject to requirements, if any, that either the Medical School's or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas L. Strong  
Interim Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

October 2014