

An abstract geometric composition on a dark blue background. On the left, a vertical cream-colored bar is divided into three sections by two horizontal teal lines, each with a small teal dot at the intersection. To the right of this bar, a large teal shape is composed of a trapezoid at the bottom, a rectangle in the middle, and a triangle at the top. A thin white vertical line runs down the center of the teal shape, ending in a small teal circle. The word "Netherlands" is written in white serif font in the upper right area.

Netherlands

Netherlands

Understanding the applicable framework

Assess legislation, CGR provisions, transparency arrangements and governance. The reviewed 2024 consolidated CGR Code includes patient-organisation provisions on independence, agreements and acknowledgement (Stichting Code Geneesmiddelenreclame [CGR], 2024, sec. 6.6).

What companies need to understand

A vereniging has members; a stichting does not. Check signing authority in statutes and registration rather than assume an individual board member can sign independently (Kamer van Koophandel [KVK], n.d.; Ondernemersplein, n.d.).

Ask how positions and commitments are authorised. A foundation can consult a community without having members, while an association may require member decisions. Assess the actual process rather than infer representativeness from legal form.

What patient organisations need to understand

The reviewed CGR provisions require support agreements describing purpose, rights, obligations, value and acknowledgement. The explanatory text addresses independence and exclusivity (CGR, 2024, sec. 6.6).

Discuss the relationship before developing materials. Assess any specific exclusivity proposal against current provisions rather than treating all restrictions alike. Record company input and final editorial responsibility.

Transparency and finance

The healthcare transparency register describes patient-project and meeting sponsorship categories. Check current reporting scope rather than borrow healthcare-professional rules (Stichting Transparantieregister Zorg, n.d.).

Explain reporting, legal names and project descriptions before signing. Distinguish support from services and agree expenses, payment timing and changes.

Regulatory and access participation

Authorisation and reimbursement are separate. CBG-MEB handles the regulatory route, while Zorginstituut assesses relevant reimbursement questions and involves patient organisations and other stakeholders (Zorginstituut Nederland, n.d.-a, n.d.-b).

Identify the specific decision and participation timetable. Develop evidence under the organisation's control and separate company-funded consultation from independent reimbursement contributions.

Practical example and local checks

For a supported treatment-needs report, confirm signing authority, consultation and whether the report is independent or commissioned. Verify CGR and transparency rules and agree reuse. If findings may inform reimbursement, document methods, contributors, funding and independent conclusions.