Sweden

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Understanding the applicable framework

Lif identifies its current ethical rules as effective from 1 February 2026. Chapter 3 addresses organisations, patients and related participants. Check applicability alongside law and organisational obligations (Lif, 2026a).

Sweden distinguishes defined collaboration from ordinary organisational activity. Assess the intended work and expenditure before offering funding, rather than fitting an agreed budget into a permitted category afterwards.

What companies need to understand

The rules state that industry collaboration and sponsorship must not dominate organisational finances or activities. This is qualitative and should not be converted into an invented universal percentage (Lif, 2026b, chap. 3).

Discuss reliance and control proportionately. Multiple funders do not automatically resolve every independence question, and financial checks should have a clear purpose.

What patient organisations need to understand

The rules prohibit support for ordinary activities, including examples such as rent, board meetings and internal administration. They also restrict donations to dedicated research support under stated conditions (Lif, 2026b).

Distinguish a project from ongoing operations. Ask the company to explain how restrictions apply. Relabelling an ordinary cost as a project expense does not settle classification.

Agreements and participation costs

Chapter 3 generally requires advance agreements, public collaboration information and specific conditions for travel and accompanying support (Lif, 2026b).

Discuss accessibility before choosing a format. Explain permitted costs and alternatives, publication of the relationship and practical responsibilities before people commit.

Regulatory and access participation

TLV describes appointed patient representatives, dialogue forums, roundtables and consultation, with confidentiality-related limits on involvement in individual cases (Tandvårds- och läkemedelsförmånsverket [TLV], n.d.).

Check the actual opportunity and contribution sought. Assess company relationships and official participation separately, and prepare evidence on living with the condition without promising influence over a decision.

Practical example and local checks

Separate a proposed website, ongoing social-media work and workshop into their actual components. Assess ordinary activity restrictions, then agree any defined collaboration, expenditure, support and transparency. The organisation should decide whether the resulting project is worthwhile and manageable.