

September 2024

COMPLIANCE *pulse*

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE VUMC COMPLIANCE PULSE

The Office of Compliance & Corporate Integrity (OCCI) wants to keep you updated on important compliance topics. This month, we're again highlighting our standards around providing patients with gifts or assistance.

Gifts to Patients and Immediate Family Members

Patient gifts or assistance may not be in the form of cash or cash equivalents (checks, gift cards etc.). One exception to this rule is restricted-use gas cards, which are permissible if obtained through Clay Wilson in Procurement.

Patients receiving assistance must be actively receiving care from the VUMC Entity providing the assistance. At a minimum, they must have scheduled an appointment. Family members are eligible to receive assistance only if they are with an eligible patient receiving care.

For each patient, the total value of the gift or assistance may not exceed \$15 per day and \$75 per year. Gifts provided to family members counts towards this total amount.

ALMS Tracking System

All gifts and assistance provided under this policy must be recorded in the [ALMS \(short for A Little Moral Support\) Tracking System](#). ALMS is user-friendly. It will ask you to complete a survey. You will need to be ready to provide the MRN, patient name, and gift amount. Once you complete the survey, ALMS will tell you if the gift is approved or not approved. If the gift is NOT approved, you must contact patientassistance@vumc.org before proceeding.

Additional Resources

If you have any other questions, contact patientassistance@vumc.org. For more information, you may also click here to review the [VUMC Policy: Patient Assistance – Nominal Items and Gifts](#).