



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Cooper Attending Physicians & APPs

**CC:** Anthony Mazzairelli, MD, Chief Physician Executive, CUHC  
Eric Kupersmith, MD, Chief Medical Officer, CUHC

**FROM:** Snehal Gandhi, MD, Director, Division of Medical Informatics and Care Delivery Innovation

**DATE:** January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Lifting the Ban on Stipend Use for Electronic Hardware

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In order to keep pace with the changes in the way physicians and APPs learn, consume information, and practice medicine, Cooper is lifting the ban on attending physicians and APPs utilizing a portion of their stipend to subsidize the purchase of electronic hardware. As long as the purchase can **adequately demonstrate a business/educational need** – ie: Research, Teaching, CME / Education etc, an attending physician or APP will have the ability to utilize up to \$800 / year of their annual stipend for electronic hardware. While the ban on house staff is also lifted, please be aware that the policy and amount is distinct as the house staff are learners with Cooper with a very different role for a much shorter period of time.

Cooper has had a long standing rule that attending physicians and APPs cannot utilize their Cooper Stipend for electronic devices. Other academic institutions have lifted the ban with their attending physicians, APPs and within their house staff training programs. It is now time for us to do the same.

The general consensus is that electronic mobile devices such as smart devices (smartphones, smart devices such as iPod touches, Kindles, and iPads) have become excellent tools and critical to research, medical education and learning. Most medical textbooks are not only available on Kindles, iPads, and iPhones, but are enhanced on these platforms (embedded with videos and high resolution pictures). Additionally, the apps are less expensive, updated more frequently, and include links to outside resources. When it comes to board certification and recertification, most specialties have embraced the digital age and now offer review courses including questions that are app based. These apps also usually provide CME. Eg – Rosh Review, Dynamed, Anesthesia MOCA

Minute, Visual Diagnosis to name a few. While these options can be utilized on a desktop, the reality is that they are designed to be more effectively utilized on a mobile device such as an iPhone, Android, or iPad. More importantly, many of us do actually prefer the mobile form factor. Finally, many of these apps serve not only to enhance patient care, but they also provide an enhanced educational experience.

In summary, we hope that the lifting of this ban shows the positive changes that are taking place at Cooper relative to the physicians and APPs

In order to help with this transition, to make sure that we are consistent in our application, and to ensure that we can keep in line with an educational/business approach so that physicians and APPs do not have to pay taxes on these reimbursements, we are requiring that you **first fill out an electronic device reimbursement form for devices**. Please recognize that this is standard practice at the other academic institutions. **Failure to fill out the form may result in failure in reimbursement**. Over time, we will refine this process based on findings and your feedback

Please note that if you are unsure about a purchase before filling out the form, feel free to work with your leadership to determine whether a purchase may be reimbursed or not. The Division of Medical Informatics and Care Delivery Innovation will work with physician leadership, APP leadership and you if you have any questions. If questions still remain **after** working with your program leadership, please send an email to [cuhelechrhw@cooperhealth.edu](mailto:cuhelechrhw@cooperhealth.edu).

**Please remember that approval to purchase a device does not take into account whether you have sufficient funds left of your CME allotment.** In other words, the approval process is independent of your CME allotment status.

### **Outline of Steps:**

1. Identify electronic device to be purchased
2. Fill out the electronic device request reimbursement form online located at <https://goo.gl/OVVb6y>.



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3. Please note that it is strongly and highly recommended that approval be obtained **PRIOR** to your purchase for a variety of reasons (see FAQ for reasons).
  - a. If you are unsure about whether your purchase qualifies, please discuss with your physician or APP leadership
4. Once approval letter is received, please make the purchase within 30 days of approval and submit an expense form via your program's normal process. The approval letter must be attached to the expense form. The maximum amount of reimbursement cannot exceed \$800 per calendar year.
5. Please make sure the reimbursement request is within your CME allotment balance or, despite approval of device, you may not be reimbursed.

### **Items you will need in order to fill out approval form:**

- A. Device Manufacturer Name
- B. Device Model
- C. Device Description
- D. Total Cost

**Tip:** Make sure you are able to justify your purchase with a true business/educational need. For example, purchasing a new phone to be able to make phone calls is not adequate justification. However, purchasing a laptop, iPad, Chromebook or upgrading a phone to load software such as Haiku / Canto, NJ PMP, Dynamed, board certification / recertification software etc would be a justifiable purchase.