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Who finances *Prescrire's* activities?

Prescrire's actions in the arena of professional policy are numerous: production and distribution of documentary research services as well as continuing education programmes and more. For every one of these activities, it is healthy and legitimate to ask just who finances it.

● Production and distribution of the journal *Prescrire*.

These activities are paid for by the sale of subscriptions, without recourse to other outside financing of any kind or to the sale of advertising space (zero grants, zero advertising).

● Production and distribution of the *Prescrire Electronic Library*.

These activities are paid for by sales of the subscriptions to « *L'Intégrale Prescrire* », without recourse to other outside financing of any kind or to the sale of advertising space (zero grants, zero advertising).

● The production and maintenance of the prescrire.org website, as well as online documentary research services and editorial sections, be they freely available or subscribers-only; political action in the public interest, such as actions in favour of better information for healthcare professionals and for patients.

These activities are financed by the sale of subscriptions, without recourse to other outside financing of any kind or to the sale of advertising space (zero grants, zero advertising).

● Production and distribution of the *Prescrire* continuing education programmes for « Perfecting skills » and « Improving professional practices ».

These activities are financed by the *Prescrire* subscribers who enrol in these programmes, via the payment of enrolment fees over and above the basic subscription price, without recourse to other outside financing of any kind or to the sale of advertising space (zero grants, zero advertising).

To improve care, first and foremost from the standpoint of patients' interests, healthcare professionals need to base their work and their decisions on reliable and independent information. *Prescrire* is set up in such a way as to be protected from economic, political or financial influence exerted by companies involved in the healthcare arena or by bodies in charge of organising the healthcare system, or, more generally, from any influence by special interests.

Prescrire

For further details see the annual financial statement of the Association Mieux *Prescrire*, which publishes *Prescrire* and *Prescrire International*. The statement for the last accounting period, from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009, is published inside this issue and freely available online at www.english.prescrire.org, in the section entitled "About *Prescrire*".