

## **Policy Direction – Prohibition of Payment of Indirect Costs of Health Research**

---

### **Rationale and Relationship to Mission, Principles and Values**

From its earliest days, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (the MS Society) has been a major funder of MS research through a program that funds university and hospital-based research projects and research personnel awards. This commitment is encapsulated in the mission which states the organization is to be a leader in finding a cure for multiple sclerosis and enabling people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life. In *Momentum 2015*, the strategic direction for MS research directs the MS Society to find the cause, prevention and cure for multiple sclerosis in the shortest possible time.

### **Policy Objective**

The objective of this policy is to ensure that MS Society research expenditures are used to fund specific research projects and research personnel and are not used to fund indirect costs of research. Indirect costs of research are general expenditures that a university, hospital or research institution incurs in the overall conduct of research but are not related to specific research activities.

### **Policy Application**

The policy applies to all MS Society funded researchers, volunteers and staff at all levels of the organization. The policy is effective on the date of approval.

### **Authorization**

The policy was approved by the national board of directors November 20, 2009.

### **Policy Details**

The MS Society has the obligation to target funds raised from donors to research projects and research personnel with the goal of accelerating the discovery of the cause, prevention and cure for multiple sclerosis in the shortest possible time. MS Society funds cannot be used to cover university, hospital or other research institutions' indirect costs.

## **Executive Champion**

The MS Society senior vice-president, research and programs, is the executive champion for the Policy Direction - Prohibition of Payment of Indirect Costs of Health Research.

## **Monitoring and Compliance**

The senior vice-president, research and programs, is responsible for leading the monitoring of the application and compliance of this policy direction. On a quarterly basis, national vice-presidents must acknowledge compliance with this policy direction.

## **Related Policies, Legislation**

This policy direction draws on the Position Statement on Indirect Costs of Research issued by the Health Charities Coalition of Canada and similar policies of other health charities that fund research.

## **Policy Review**

The policy direction is to be reviewed at a minimum every five years following approval.

---

## **Definitions**

**Direct costs of research** – Expenditures that are directly associated with a research project (e.g., laboratory materials, technician salaries, authorized travel) or a research personnel award (e.g., fellowship or studentship).

**Indirect costs of research** – Expenditures that a university, hospital or other research institution incurs related to the overall conduct of research. Examples of indirect costs are: maintaining buildings, heating, lighting, managing the research process, ethics reviews, management of intellectual property, environmental assessment and safety compliance.

\\ResearchIndirectCostsPolicyDirectionApprovedNov09-EN