The Tenth International Pharmaceutical Compliance Congress Overview of the Anti-Corruption Landscape Dr. Peter Dieners Warsaw, 10 May 2016

C L I F F O R D C H A N C E



## Content

- General Framework
- International Observations and Trends
  - Responsibilities of board members
  - Commercial bribery covering (private) HCPs
  - The role of industry codes of conduct

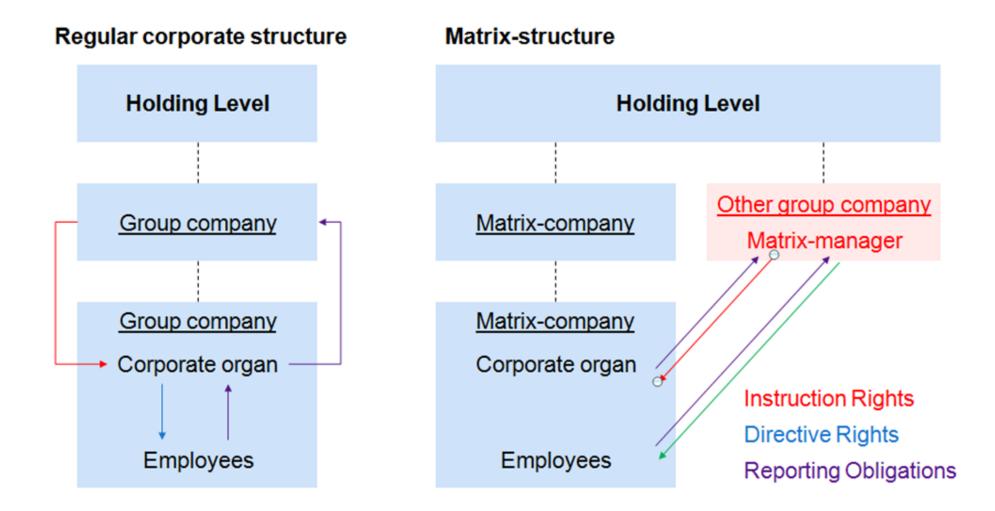
## **General Framework**

- Higher expectations as to the ethical integrity of business activities
- Globalization of business activities ("high risk jurisdictions" and "emerging markets")
- More expansive reach of national laws with extraterritorial reach (FCPA, UK Bribery Act)
- Greater complexity of compliance systems as consequence of financial crisis
- Legal entities becoming subject of criminal investigations

# International Observations and Trends: Responsibility of board members

- Board members are increasingly subject to very intense scrutiny
- Several precedents have created high awareness regarding board member responsibilities, due to the breach of the duty to ensure a suitable compliance management system
- Responsibilities defined in countless:
  - national statutory law provisions
  - industry standards
  - court decisions
  - regulations and regulatory provisions
- Exposure of board members not only in prominent cases with high public attention but part of the ordinary course of actions
  - Example: Civil law litigation against former board members for damages as a consequence of criminal investigations

## **Complex Group Structures**



#### The Tenth International Pharmaceutical Compliance Congress Overview of the Anti-Corruption Landscape

## **Complex Group Structures: Risks**

- Matrix Structures: Reporting lines / instruction channels, as required under company law, differ from those that are actually used in practice
- Problem: Actual instruction channels and reporting lines often lack a legal binding basis
- Deficient delegation of instruction and directive rights in the matrix companies vis-á-vis matrix managers may cause the following liabilities:
  - Personal liability of board members of individual companies
  - Personal liability of board members on group-level
  - Personal liability of active staff members within matrix structure
  - Liability of individual companies and of ultimate parent company

## "Compliance Governance" and risk mitigation

- To minimize exposure, board members have to establish and maintain an adequate Corporate Governance Organisation and functioning Compliance Management System
- Legal Instrument Organisational Guideline
- Corporate Responsibilities and Corporate Compliance: A Resource for Health Care Boards of Directors"
  - Published by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the American Health Lawyers Association in Spring 2015
  - Recommendations for board members "to ask the right questions"
  - Expected to become a sector-related benchmark

# International Observations and Trends: Commercial bribery covering (private) HCPs

- Example: New German law governing commercial bribery for HCPs
- Will enter into force end of May/June 2016
- Previous anti-corruption law only covered government officials/privately employeed clinic physicians
- The new law requires infringement of unfair competition law as part of an "unlawful agreement" to prescribe drugs/medical devices, etc.
- Healthcare organizations need to carefully screen their interactions with (private) HCPs (e.g., cost-free provision of equipment, non-interventional studies, congress invitations, etc.)

# International Observations and Trends: The role of industry codes of conduct

- Increasing importance of industry codes of conduct
- Public prosecutor are increasingly considering them as "safe-harbors"
- Healthcare organizations need to make sure that industry codes of conduct are properly implemented and binding for all employees
- Compliance with industry codes of conduct are increasingly subject of internal audits and investigations (otherwise this may be interpreted as a lack of oversights by the boards)

Clifford Chance, Königsallee 59, 40215 Düsseldorf, Germany © Clifford Chance 2016 Clifford Chance Deutschland LLP is a limited liability partnership with registered office at 10 Upper Bank Street, London E14 5JJ, registered in England and Wales under OC393460. A branch office of the firm is registered in the Partnership Register at Frankfurt am Main Local Court under PR 2189. Regulatory information pursuant to Sec. 5 TMG and 2, 3 DL-InfoV: www.cliffordchance.com/deuregulatory