

## Addressing uncertainties surrounding federal directives

Jan. 29, 2025

To the UT Southwestern Community:

I write to you to address the current uncertainties surrounding federally funded research, care, and educational initiatives.

Earlier this week, the Federal Office of Management and Budget issued a memorandum that directs federal agencies to “temporarily pause” activities involving federal financial assistance related to recent executive orders. Subsequently, a federal judge stayed the directive until further hearings on Monday, February 3. Additionally, we are awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) related to travel, conferences, and other matters.

I understand that these and related developments may raise questions we are not yet able to address. However, please be assured that we are following these developments daily and will communicate as we gain greater clarity. In the interim, you should continue to advance your federally funded projects and all of our educational and training activities should also continue without change or disruption. We will follow any future directives closely that might bear on providing care to our patients and health care operations.

Our current understanding of [guidance](#) thus far:

- NIH has stated that clinical trials at NIH and NIH-funded institutions are ongoing, and participation should continue.
- NIH studies unrelated to executive order topics also appear unaffected.
- Procurements and contracting can continue for anything directly related to human safety, human or animal care, security, biosafety and biosecurity, IT security, and necessary supplies and support for ongoing research.
- Submission of papers and communications with journals regarding federally funded research should also continue.
- The White House Office of Management and Budget confirmed Medicare and Medicaid payments are not affected by this pause.
- The U.S. Department of Education has clarified that the directives do not apply to federal student loans or Pell Grants.

Your contributions are vital to the success of our medical center. Because of the exceptional discipline and hard work of our faculty and staff, our institution is well positioned to navigate this dynamic landscape. I am confident that together we will find the means to adapt to any changes and continue to advance our mission and values.

Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D.  
President  
UT Southwestern Medical Center