WMA International Code of Medical Ethics


DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS IN GENERAL

A PHYSICIAN SHALL
always exercise his/her independent professional judgment and maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
respect a competent patient's right to accept or refuse treatment.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
not allow his/her judgment to be influenced by personal profit or unfair discrimination.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
be dedicated to providing competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
deal honestly with patients and colleagues, and report to the appropriate authorities those physicians who practice unethically or incompetently or who engage in fraud or deception.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
not receive any financial benefits or other incentives solely for referring patients or prescribing specific products.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
respect the rights and preferences of patients, colleagues, and other health professionals.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
recognize his/her important role in educating the public but should use due caution in divulging discoveries or new techniques or treatment through non-professional channels.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
certify only that which he/she has personally verified.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
strive to use health care resources in the best way to benefit patients and their community.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
seek appropriate care and attention if he/she suffers from mental or physical illness.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
respect the local and national codes of ethics.

DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO PATIENTS

A PHYSICIAN SHALL
always bear in mind the obligation to respect human life.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
act in the patient's best interest when providing medical care.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
owe his/her patients complete loyalty and all the scientific resources available to him/her. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond the physician's capacity, he/she should consult with or refer to another physician who has the necessary ability.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
respect a patient's right to confidentiality. It is ethical to disclose confidential information when the patient consents to it or when there is a real and imminent threat of harm to the patient or to others and this threat can be only removed by a breach of confidentiality.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he/she is assured that others are willing and able to give such care.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
in situations when he/she is acting for a third party, ensure that the patient has full knowledge of that situation.
A PHYSICIAN SHALL
not enter into a sexual relationship with his/her current patient or into any other abusive or exploitative relationship.

DUTIES OF PHYSICIANS TO COLLEAGUES
A PHYSICIAN SHALL behave towards colleagues as he/she would have them behave towards him/her.

A PHYSICIAN SHALL NOT undermine the patient-physician relationship of colleagues in order to attract patients.

A PHYSICIAN SHALL when medically necessary, communicate with colleagues who are involved in the care of the same patient. This communication should respect patient confidentiality and be confined to necessary information.