

INTERNATIONAL CODE  
OF  
MEDICAL ETHICS

17./56

Adopted by the Third General Assembly of THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
London, England, October 1949

Duties of Doctors in General

Duties of Doctors to the Sick

A DOCTOR MUST always maintain the highest standards of professional conduct.

A DOCTOR MUST ALWAYS bear in mind the obligation of preserving human life.

A DOCTOR MUST practice his profession uninfluenced by motives of profit.

A DOCTOR OWES to his patient complete loyalty and all the resources of his science. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond his capacity he should summon another doctor who has the necessary ability.

THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES are deemed unethical;

- a) Any self advertisement except such as is expressly authorized by the national code of medical ethics.
- b) Collaborate in any form of medical service in which the doctor does not have professional independence.
- c) Receiving any money in connection with services rendered to a patient other than a proper professional fee, even with the knowledge of the patient.

A DOCTOR SHALL preserve absolute secrecy on all he knows about his patient because of the confidence entrusted in him.

A DOCTOR MUST give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he is assured that others are willing and able to give such care.

Duties of Doctors to Each Other

ANY ACT, OR ADVICE which could weaken physical or mental resistance of a human being may be used only on his interest.

A DOCTOR OUGHT to behave to his colleagues as he would have them behave to him.

A DOCTOR IS ADVISED to use great caution in divulging discoveries or new techniques or treatment.

A DOCTOR MUST NOT entice patients from his colleagues.

A DOCTOR SHOULD certify or testify only to that which he has personally verified.

A DOCTOR MUST OBSERVE the principles of "The Declaration of Geneva" approved by The World Medical Association.

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DECLARATION OF GENEVA

Adopted by the General Assembly of The World Medical Association  
at Geneva, Switzerland, September, 1948

AT THE TIME OF BEING ADMITTED AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION :

I WILL MAINTAIN by all the means in my power, the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession;

MY COLLEAGUES will be my brothers;

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity.

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception; even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and dignity;

THE HEALTH OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the secrets which are confided in me;

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely and upon my honor.