



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

American Medical Women's Association Position Paper on Principals of Ethical Conduct

The American Medical Women's Association supports a body of ethical statements developed primary for the benefit of the patient. As a member of the medical profession, a physician must recognize responsibility not only to patients, but also to society, to other health professionals, and so self. The following Principals of Ethical Conduct are not laws, but standards of conduct which define the essentials of appropriate behavior for the physician.

- A physician shall be dedicated to provide competent medical service with compassion and respect for human dignity.
- A physician will deal honestly with patients and colleagues.
- A physician will recognize the right of all patients to receive the same quality of care regardless of gender, race, marital status, sexual orientation, religious preference, diagnosis, or age.
- A physician shall recognize and respect the rights of all patients, female and male, regardless of reproductive status, to receive the same standard of care.
- A physician shall respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and of other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences within the constraints of the law.
- A physician shall continue to study, apply and advance scientific knowledge; make relevant information available to patients and colleagues and the public; obtain consultation; and use the talents of other health professional when indicated.
- A physician shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom so serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical services.
- A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to an improved community.
- A physician shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to seek changes in those requirements which are contrary to the best interest of the patient.
- A physician shall notify, in a timely and clinically appropriate manner, an appropriate authority regarding those physicians whose conduct the reporting physician believes illegal, unethical, or incompetent or who engages in fraud or deception.
- Adapted, in part, from AMA and AOA codes of medical ethics by AMWA medical ethics committee in 1989;