Code of Medical Ethics

ArMA Principles of Medical Ethics

PREAMBLE

The following principles, adopted by the Arizona Medical Association, are not laws but standards of conduct that define the essentials of honorable behavior for the physician.

PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL ETHICS

I. A physician shall provide competent medical care, with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.

II. A physician shall uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and strive to report physicians deficient in character or competence, or engaging in fraud or deception, to appropriate entities. This includes respecting the values and viewpoints of all other physicians, including their rights and feelings.

III. A physician shall respect the law and recognize a responsibility to seek changes in requirements that are contrary to the best interests of the patient.

IV. A physician shall respect the rights of patients, colleagues and other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences and privacy within the constraints of the law.

V. A physician shall continue to study, apply and advance scientific knowledge; maintain a commitment to medical education; make relevant information available to patients, colleagues and the public; obtain consultation; and use the talents of other health professionals when indicated.

VI. A physician shall, in the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical care.

VII. A physician shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health.

VIII. A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as paramount.

IX. A physician shall support access to health care for all people.