

### ***9.6.6 Prescribing & Dispensing Drugs & Devices***

In keeping with physicians' ethical responsibility to hold the patient's interests as paramount, in their role as prescribers and dispensers of drugs and devices, physicians should:

- (a) Prescribe drugs, devices, and other treatments based solely on medical considerations, patient need, and reasonable expectations of effectiveness for the particular patient.
- (b) Dispense drugs in their office practices only if such dispensing primarily benefits the patient.
- (c) Avoid direct or indirect influence of financial interests on prescribing decisions by:
  - (i) declining any kind of payment or compensation from a drug company or device manufacturer for prescribing its products, including offers of indemnification;
  - (ii) respecting the patient's freedom to choose where to fill prescriptions. In general, physicians should not refer patients to a pharmacy the physician owns or operates.

***AMA Principles of Medical Ethics: II, III, IV, V***

*Opinion 9.6.6, Prescribing and dispensing drugs and devices, compiles guidance from several prior opinions without a background report, except as follows:*

CEJA 3-A-16 Modernized *Code of Medical Ethics*

**9.6.6 Prescribing & Dispensing Drugs & Devices**

*In keeping with physicians' ethical responsibility to hold the patient's interests as paramount, in their role as prescribers and dispensers of drugs and devices, physicians should: [new content sets out key ethical values and concerns explicitly]*

- (a) Prescribe drugs, devices, and other treatments based solely on medical considerations, patient need, and reasonable expectations of effectiveness for the particular patient.
- (b) Dispense drugs in their office practices only if such dispensing primarily benefits the patient.
- (c) Avoid direct or indirect influence of financial interests on prescribing decisions by:
  - (i) declining any kind of payment or compensation from a drug company or device manufacturer for prescribing its products, including offers of indemnification;
  - (ii) respecting the patient's freedom to choose where to fill prescriptions. In general, physicians should not refer patients to a pharmacy the physician owns or operates.

***AMA Principles of Medical Ethics: II, III, IV, V***