

AMA 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:

- (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