

**Statement Regarding Pharmacists' Refusal to Provide Products or Services for Moral or Religious Reasons**

**Adapted by SCP from the  
National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities  
"Model Statement Regarding Pharmacists' Refusal to  
Provide Products or Services for Moral or Religious Reasons"**

Pharmacists shall hold the health and safety of the public to be their first consideration in the practice of their profession. Pharmacists who object, as a matter of conscience, to providing a particular pharmacy product or service must be prepared to explain the basis of their objection. Objecting pharmacists cannot abandon their ethical duty of care to the patient, and respect of the patient's right of autonomy to make informed decisions to receive pharmacy products and services based on objective and accurate information.

The following policy clauses reflect the need to meet a patient's requirements for pharmacy products and services while respecting a pharmacist's right of conscience:

1. A pharmacist is permitted to object to the provision of a certain pharmacy product or service if it appears to conflict with the pharmacist's view of morality or religious beliefs, and if the pharmacist believes that his or her conscience will be harmed by providing the product or service. The reasons for the objection should be conveyed to the pharmacy manager, and to the patient. It would be improper and unethical conduct if the pharmacist used the opportunity to promote his/her moral or religious convictions, or engage in any actions, which demean the patient.
2. Duty of care includes ensuring that the decisions of the pharmacist do no harm or promote the wellbeing of the patient. This might mean that the individual pharmacist refers the patient to, or pre-arranges access to an alternate source, to enable the patient to obtain the service or product that they need. Any alternate means must minimize inconvenience or suffering to the patient or patient's agent and must maintain patient confidentiality.

*Approved by Council June 23, 2000*