

1.1.5 Terminating a Patient-Physician Relationship

Physicians' fiduciary responsibility to patients entails an obligation to support continuity of care for their patients. At the beginning of patient-physician relationship, the physician should alert the patient to any foreseeable impediments to continuity of care.

When considering withdrawing from a case, physicians must:

- (a) Notify the patient (or authorized decision maker) long enough in advance to permit the patient to secure another physician.
- (b) Facilitate transfer of care when appropriate.

AMA Principles of Medical Ethics: I,VI

Background report(s):

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

Earlier guidance issued prior to 1977 without report

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- (a) Notify the patient (or authorized decision maker) long enough in advance to permit the patient to secure another physician.
- (b) *Facilitate transfer of care when appropriate. [New content addresses gap in current guidance.]*

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