

AMA Code of Medical Ethics

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