

DRAFT VERSION FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

No	Text of current version of the Declaration of Geneva	Current revised text (as of 11 April 2017) SUBJECT TO CHANGE Specific Comments Additions: <u>bold/underlined</u> Deletions: lined-out Comments only: <i>[italic]</i>	Comments
	WMA DECLARATION OF GENEVA	WMA DECLARATION OF GENEVA	
New		<u>The Physicians' Oath</u>	Change to <u>'The Physician's Oath</u> [The oath should be singular (not plural) as it is taken by each individual and binds the physician as an individual. Note the consistent use of the first person singular 'I' in the oath.]
	Adopted by the 2 nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association, Geneva, Switzerland, September 1948 and amended by the 22 nd World Medical Assembly, Sydney, Australia, August 1968 and the 35 th World Medical Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983 and the 46 th WMA General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden, September 1994 and editorially revised by the 170 th WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2005 and the 173 rd WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2006	Adopted by the 2 nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association, Geneva, Switzerland, September 1948 and amended by the 22 nd World Medical Assembly, Sydney, Australia, August 1968 and the 35 th World Medical Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983 and the 46 th WMA General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden, September 1994 and editorially revised by the 170 th WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2005 and the 173 rd WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2006 and the	OK
1.	AT THE TIME OF BEING ADMITTED	AT THE TIME OF BEING ADMITTED AS A	

	AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:	MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:	
2.	I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;	I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;	Revise as follows: I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to consecrate my life to the service of my patients and the health of humanity; [The first duty of the physician is to his/her patient(s). Additionally, ‘the service of humanity’ is too vague. It does not indicate specifically the wherefore or the why of a medical education and the medical profession.]
3.	I WILL GIVE to my teachers the respect and gratitude that is their due;	I WILL GIVE to my teachers, <u>colleagues and students</u> the respect and gratitude that is their due;	Revise as follows: I WILL GIVE to my teachers, <u>colleagues, and students</u> the respect and gratitude that is their due; [Add a comma after colleagues. Do this throughout for grammatical items in a series in order to maintain grammatical consistency and clarity in meaning.]
		I WILL MAINTAIN by all means in my power, the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession; (<i>Moved from line 7</i>)	I WILL FOSTER the honour, noble traditions, and development of the medical profession; [‘by all means in my power’ adds nothing; in fact, the superfluous language only subtracts from the meaning.] [‘FOSTER’ is stronger and adds responsibility.] [‘and development’ insists that no physician is a passive member of the profession and that the profession relies, not only on past knowledge and practices, but also seeks to develop new knowledge and improved practices. This is in keeping with Paragraph 6 of <i>Declaration of</i>

			<i>Helsinki.</i>] (2013).]
4.	I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity;	I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity <u>and in accordance with good medical practice;</u>	Revise as follows: I WILL PRACTISE my profession <u>in agreement with good medical practice</u> and in accordance with my conscience, promoting the dignity of the patient and the dignity of the medical profession; [The ordering is important here. Both the dignity of the patient and the dignity of the profession need to be recognized.]
5.	THE HEALTH OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;	THE HEALTH <u>AND WELL-BEING</u> OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;	Rewrite 5., 5New, and 6 (next line below) as follows: I WILL PROMOTE AND PROTECT the dignity, health, well-being, and confidentiality of my patients; [This is the only clause beginning with something other than ‘I’. As with all the other clauses, it should bind more strongly the individual by beginning with ‘I’. ‘Dignity’ entails both respect and autonomy; no need to repeat. It only adds confusion – especially for those (even ethicists) who have recently argued against ‘dignity’. The Hippocratic ‘secrecy’ should not be lost entirely, but it should be updated and directed toward the patient with the term ‘confidentiality’. It is important that today the WMA take a strong stance regarding the confidentiality between a physician and his/her patient, and this in support of the Declaration of Taipei (2002/2016).]
New		<u>I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;</u>	Rewritten above. Delete 11 below and add a new 5New: I WILL PRACTICE the medical profession only to improve health

			and alleviate suffering while deliberately refusing to cause physical, psychological, or spiritual injury or wrong-doing to a patient; [This clause reminds us of the same admonition in the original Hippocratic Oath: ‘abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm’. This is particularly important to protect physicians from participating in war crimes, torture, maleficent experimentation, and state or terrorist practices that deliberately intend to harm persons.]
6.	I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;	I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;	See ‘Comments’ for 5 above.
7.	I WILL MAINTAIN by all means in my power, the honour and the noble traditions of the medical profession;	<i>Moved between lines 3 and 4 – see above</i>	See above.
8.	MY COLLEAGUES will be my sisters and brothers;	MY COLLEAGUES will be my sisters and brothers;	
New		<u>I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;</u>	Rewrite as follows: <u>I WILL CONTINUALLY IMPROVE AND SHARE, as appropriate, my medical knowledge for the benefit of my patients and the advancement of public health;</u> [The need for the continual improvement of medical knowledge is increasingly important, especially with near global requirements for evidence-based medicine and continuous medical education. This is much more so the case today than at the time of Hippocrates or in 1948. ‘Patients’

			<u>should be plural. ‘Public health includes ‘healthcare’ but is wider and has less the sense of simply industry and finance.]</u>
New		<u>I WILL FOSTER my own health and ability to provide care of the highest standard;</u>	
9.	I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;	I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;	Rewrite as follows: I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, nationality, political affiliation, race, gender, sexual orientation, social standing, or any other personal characteristic to intervene between my duty and my patient; [Attention needs to be paid to the ordering of terms and the use of the comma. ‘Factor’ is vague and should be replaced by what is being discussed here: ‘personal characteristics’.]
10.	I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;	I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;	Delete. This is poorly written and already stated in so many ways.
11.	I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;	I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;	Delete. Rewritten above in 5New. [‘Human rights’ and ‘civil liberties’ are legal concepts, even if we generally want to believe everyone has some insight in them. Further, ‘human rights’ and ‘civil liberties’ are dependent on states. As medical professionals, physicians should be concerned to protect and promote what belongs to their profession: health.]
12.	I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely and upon my honour.	I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely and upon my honour.	Rewrite as follows: I MAKE THESE PROMISES freely, solemnly, and upon my honour. [Word order is important. The first requirement for an oath to be valid is that it

			is freely taken.]
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