



Refusal to Provide Products or Services for Moral or Religious Reasons Statement Regarding Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians

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

In this document, unless the context indicates otherwise, “member(s)” includes licensed pharmacist(s) and pharmacy technician(s).

Members shall hold the health and safety of the public to be their first consideration in the practice of their profession. Members 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 members 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 member’s right of conscience:

1. A member is permitted to object to the provision of a certain pharmacy product or service if it appears to conflict with the member’s view of morality or religious beliefs and if the member 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 member 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 member do no harm or promote the wellbeing of the patient. This might mean that the individual member 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.