

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS*

CEJA Report 9-I-10

Subject: Update: Modernizing the AMA *Code of Medical Ethics*

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1 As noted in CEJA Report 5-I-08, “Modernizing the AMA *Code of Medical Ethics*,” the Council on
2 Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) has embarked on a project to critically review and update the
3 *Code*. The goal is to ensure that the *Code* continues to provide timely, relevant, cogent guidance
4 for the profession of medicine and its individual physician and medical student members.
5

6 In late 2009, working groups consisting of three members of CEJA and one or more staff members
7 began a second round of close, critical review of the current content of the *Code* organized under
8 the new taxonomy previously reported (see Appendix). Each opinion is reviewed with respect to
9 the timeliness, quality, and clarity of the guidance it provides, and its consistency with other
10 opinions that touch on similar or related issues. For each opinion, the working group seeks to
11 identify core content that *must* be preserved in updated guidance on the topic and passages that are
12 outdated, potentially in tension with guidance elsewhere in the *Code*, or require clarification.
13

14 CEJA has also invited all AMA Councils and Sections and all member organizations of the
15 Federation of Medicine to contribute to the review process by providing feedback on the current
16 content of the *Code*. To help ensure that stakeholder input overall addresses the full range of
17 current opinions, invitations have suggested chapters that may be of particular concern to the
18 particular organization, council, section, as well as inviting reviewers to identify the
19 chapters/clusters for which they wish to provide feedback. Review materials include the full text
20 of current opinions and a semi-structured response form. Feedback from stakeholders is
21 incorporated into the master documents used by CEJA’s internal working groups.
22

23 After careful consideration, CEJA has extended the overall project timeline through June 2012.
24 Extending the timeline for completing this important work ensures the CEJA is able to devote the
25 time and attention the undertaking deserves while also fulfilling the responsibilities of its ongoing
26 judicial function and its mandate to develop new ethics-related policy for the organization.

* Reports of the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs are assigned to the Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws. They may be adopted, not adopted, or referred. A report may not be amended, except to clarify the meaning of the report and only with the concurrence of the Council.

APPENDIX
Working Taxonomy

1. Introduction–Ethics & Law
2. The Patient-Physician Relationship
3. Privacy & Confidentiality
4. Genetics & Reproductive Medicine
5. End of Life
6. Organ Procurement & Transplantation
7. Innovation & Research Ethics
8. Health of the Public
9. Professional Self-Regulation
10. Interprofessional Relationships
11. Financing & Delivery of Health Care