



Basic Principles of Ethics for the Practice of Pain Medicine

A position statement from the American Academy of Pain Medicine

Preamble

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM), as a body representing physicians specializing in the practice of treating patients who suffer with pain, wishes to establish and set forth a statement of medical and biomedical ethics it holds particularly appropriate for Pain Medicine, a recognized, separate and distinct medical specialty.

The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) therefore, affirms the Code of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association and declares that its members shall continually strive to:

1. commit to applicable, basic ethical principles of the practice of medicine and surgery
2. make ethical and clinical judgments based on what is in the best interest of the individual in pain
3. adhere to principles of patient confidentiality and informed consent
4. practice the principles of beneficence, autonomy, nonmaleficence and justice
5. uphold the principle that palliative and end-of-life care is an integral facet of the practice of Medicine
6. maintain the knowledge, skills and practice methods necessary for the highest possible effective and efficient care of persons suffering with pain
7. and inform and instruct our patients and the public in what we hold as ethical practice

Approved by the AAPM Board of Directors on June 26, 1999.



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