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Title: 2017 Revision of the Declaration of Geneva  
 Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD  
 Original Authors: Cheryl Farmer, MD, and Michael Simon, MD  
 Referred to: Reference Committee C  
 House Action: **REFERRED**

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Whereas, the Declaration of Geneva was adopted by the World Medical Association (WMA) at its second General Assembly in 1948 as a contemporary successor to the 2500-year-old Hippocratic Oath, and

Whereas, the Declaration of Geneva outlines the professional duties of physicians and affirms the ethical principles of the global medical profession, and

Whereas, a newly revised version of the Declaration of Geneva<sup>1</sup> adopted by the WMA General Assembly on October 14, 2017, includes several important changes and additions and now reads as follows:

*“The Physician’s Pledge  
 Adopted by the 2nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association, Geneva, Switzerland, September 1948  
 and amended by the 22nd World Medical Assembly, Sydney, Australia, August 1968  
 and the 35th World Medical Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983  
 and the 46th WMA General Assembly, Stockholm, Sweden, September 1994  
 and editorially revised by the 170th WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2005  
 and the 173rd WMA Council Session, Divonne-les-Bains, France, May 2006  
 and the WMA General Assembly, Chicago, United States, October 2017*

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:  
 I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;  
 THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;  
 I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;  
 I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;  
 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 RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;  
 I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;  
 I WILL FOSTER the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession;  
 I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;  
 I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;  
 I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;  
 I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;  
 I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honour,” and

54           Whereas, it would be beneficial to the public perception of the medical profession and to the  
55 practice of medicine worldwide for a common set of professional duties of physicians and for a  
56 common set of ethical principles of the global medical profession to be outlined and agreed upon,  
57 and

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59           Whereas, the University of Michigan Medical School has already incorporated this pledge into  
60 its "White Coat" ceremony; therefore be it

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62           RESOLVED: That MSMS adopt the newly revised version of the Declaration of Geneva, as  
63 affirmed by the World Medical Association General Assembly on October 14, 2017, in Chicago, as the  
64 contemporary successor to the 2500-year-old Hippocratic Oath.

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67           \_\_\_\_\_

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

**Relevant MSMS Policy:** None

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<sup>1</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2658261>