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3 Title: Considerations When Prescribing Animal-Derived Medications
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5 Introduced by: Nabiha Hashmi for the Medical Student Section
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7 Original Author: Salma Aljamal
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee A
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, in one study, 84 percent of the patients surveyed reported that they were not aware
15 that several medications contained ingredients derived from pork and/or beef, and
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17 Whereas, approximately 63 percent of patients wanted their physicians, and 35 percent of the
18 patients wanted their non-physician health care providers (e.g., pharmacists, nurses, etc.), to inform
19 them when using such medications¹, and
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21 Whereas, in the same study, approximately 70 percent of physicians were unaware that
22 several medications contain ingredients that might be against their patients' religion, and 70 percent
23 thought that it was important to inform their patients if such drugs were prescribed¹, and
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25 Whereas, the animal origin of some drugs may not always be known to staff prescribing or
26 administering these drugs², and
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28 Whereas, a pilot study suggests that both patients and physicians think that patients should
29 be informed whenever medications that contain pork- and/or beef-derived products are prescribed¹,
30 and
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32 Whereas, in a multicultural context, it is essential that prescribers have a minimal level of
33 awareness of patients' religious sensitiveness so that these can be considered when prescribing³, and
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35 Whereas, in one study, patients with religious prohibitions against consumption of pork
36 and/or beef products might stop their medications when prescribed those with pork- and beef-
37 derived gelatin and/or stearic acid. Prescribers should discuss this possibility with their patients,
38 perhaps as part of informed consent⁴, and
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40 Whereas, it is crucial to obtain informed consent from patients for the use of drugs and
41 implants with animal or human derived content⁵; therefore be it
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43 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
44 AMA to encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to make available to the public an easily
45 accessible database that identifies medications containing ingredients derived from animals.
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48 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy: None

Relevant AMA Policy: None

¹ Sattar SP, Ahmed MS, Madison J, et al. Patient and Physician Attitudes to Using Medications with Religiously Forbidden Ingredients. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2004;38(11):1830-1835. doi:10.1345/aph.1E001.

² Newson AJ. Clinical Ethics Committee Case 9: Should we inform our patient about animal products in his medicine? *Clin Ethics.* 2010;5(1):7-12. doi:10.1258/ce.2009.009043.

³ Gatrad AR, Mynors G, Hunt P, Sheikh A. Patient choice in medicine taking: religious sensitivities must be respected. *Arch Dis Child.* 2005;90(9):983-984. doi:10.1136/adc.2004.069435.

⁴ Sattar SP, Ahmed MS, Majeed F, Petty F. Inert Medication Ingredients Causing Nonadherence Due to Religious Beliefs. *Ann Pharmacother.* 2004;38(4):621-624. doi:10.1345/aph.1D324.

⁵ Eriksson A, Burcharth J, Rosenberg J. Animal derived products may conflict with religious patients' beliefs. *BMC Med Ethics.* 2013;14(1):48. doi:10.1186/1472-6939-14-48.