

POLICY STATEMENT(S):

1. A pharmacist is permitted to object to the provision of a certain pharmacy product or service if it appears to conflict with the pharmacist's view of morality or religious beliefs and if the pharmacist believes that his or her conscience will be harmed by providing the product or service. Objections should be conveyed to the pharmacy manager, not to the prescriber or to the patient. When the concerned pharmacist is the pharmacy manager, objections should be conveyed to the employer.
2. A pharmacist who objects to providing a certain pharmacy service as a matter of conscience must inform his or her manager and employer of the objection before they accept employment to enable the pre-planning of alternate arrangements to facilitate patient access to required pharmacy services. If the belief is formed after employment is accepted, the pharmacy manager must be informed at the earliest opportunity in the pharmacist's term of employment.
3. A pharmacy manager or employer must provide reasonable accommodation of a pharmacist's right of conscience, including the development of alternate arrangements to enable another pharmacist to provide the pharmacy products or service to the patient. Any alternate means must avoid unnecessary inconvenience or suffering to the patient or patient's agent.
4. Should the alternate means developed by the pharmacy manager or employer fail to operate to provide the product or service to the patient in a timely fashion or should the pharmacy manager or employer fail to provide alternate means, the pharmacist has a duty to the patient to provide the service or product.

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacists shall hold the health and safety of the public to be their first consideration in the practice of their profession. Pharmacists who object, as a matter of conscience, to providing a particular pharmacy product or service must be prepared to explain the basis of their objections. Objecting pharmacists have a responsibility to participate in a system designed to respect a patient's right to receive pharmacy products and services.