



Policy /Procedure Document	
Manual:	N/A
Origination Date:	01/22/2015
Last Review Date:	08/22/2018
Next Review Due:	04/2023
Policy Owner:	Medical Staff
Required Approvals:	
Committee:	Medical Executive Committee
Leadership/Board:	Board of Trustees

TITLE:	Self-Treatment or Treatment of Immediate Family Members
SCOPE:	This policy is intended for Medical Staff Members and Privilege Holders in regards to the treatment of self and/or family members.
DOCUMENT TYPE:	American Medical Association (AMA) Code of Medical Ethics; Opinion 8.19: Self-Treatment or Treatment of Immediate Family Members
PURPOSE:	Practitioners generally should not treat themselves or members of their immediate families. Professional objectivity may be compromised when an immediate family member or the Practitioner is the patient, and the Practitioner's personal feelings may unduly influence his or her professional medical judgment, thereby interfering with the care being delivered.
PHILOSOPHY:	N/A
DEFINITIONS:	N/A
PROCEDURE:	

- Practitioners should not treat themselves except in emergencies.
- Practitioners are discouraged from treating members of their immediate families except in emergencies.
- Except in emergencies, it is not appropriate for Practitioners to write prescriptions for controlled substances for themselves or immediate family members, (II, III, IV)
- Under no circumstances may Practitioners place their own financial interests above the welfare of their patients. The primary objective of the medical profession is to render service to humanity; reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration. It may be considered unethical for a Practitioner to unnecessarily hospitalize a patient, prescribe a drug, or conduct diagnostic tests for the Practitioner's financial benefit. If a conflict develops between the Practitioner's financial interest and the Practitioner's responsibilities to the patient, the conflict must be resolved to the patient's benefit.
- There may be certain, limited situations where there is no other qualified Practitioner available. In those rare cases Practitioners should not hesitate to treat themselves or family members until another Practitioner becomes available. In addition, while Practitioners should not serve as a primary or regular care provider for immediate family members, there are situations in which routine care is acceptable for short-term, minor problems.

SELF-TREATMENT OR TREATMENT OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS Policy /Procedure Document

- If care is necessary for a family member, the Practitioner should have the family member register as a patient, and create the appropriate documentation in the medical record as they would for any other patient.
- If there are conflicts or issues that arise from a Practitioner treating him/herself or a family member, a Hospital staff member should notify the Nursing Supervisor immediately, who will then address the issue with the treating Practitioner or contact the respective department chair for guidance.

Document Revision History:			
Reviewed Date:	Revision Date	Reviewed/Revised By	Summary of Changes:
01/22/2015			Original Document
04/06/2015		Michael Blakesley, MD	No changes made
04/2018		Michael Blakesley, MD	Minor edits