

### 1.1.7 Physician Exercise of Conscience

Preserving opportunity for physicians to act (or to refrain from acting) in accordance with the dictates of conscience in their professional practice is important for preserving the integrity of the medical profession as well as the integrity of the individual physician, on which patients and the public rely. Thus physicians should have considerable latitude to practice in accord with well-considered, deeply held beliefs that are central to their self-identities.

*AMA Principles of Medical Ethics: I,II,IV,VI,VIII,IX*



## UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT COLLEGE OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

*Saturday, May 21, 1988*

*Ira Allen Chapel*

*2:30 p.m.*

*I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity.  
I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;  
I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;  
The health of my patient will be my first consideration;  
I will respect the secrets which are confided in me;  
I will maintain by all means in my power, the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession;  
My colleagues will be my brothers and sisters;  
I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;  
I will maintain the utmost respect for human life; even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.  
I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.*