
PHYSICIANS – CO-DEPENDENCE & RESPONSIBILITY

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Being a physician is not an easy task. The patient expects the physician to be present every time to prescribe a medicine or provide any treatment which is physically not possible. A physician cannot be available all the time due to multiple reasons like travel, visiting different hospitals or some family responsibility. Physicians need other physicians to share their responsibility when they are not available. In this article we are going to focus on the responsibilities of physicians towards each other to make their work simpler and smoother for themselves & the patient. Following are a few points for better sharing of responsibility between physicians -

- **Accept dependence on each other:**

There is a saying in English "You go ahead, I have got your back" This is useful for every practicing physician. Some day you are also not going to be available and you will need help from other colleagues of yours. A physician should consider it a pleasure and privilege to render service to all his colleagues.

- **Conducting consultancy in an unbiased manner:**

Consultancy for a fellow colleague should be conducted in a sincere and cordial manner and envy should be not indulged. Due respect should be observed towards the physician in charge. Do not make any statement or remark which reduces confidence in your colleague.

- **Do not take charge of the case:**

When you visit the patient of a colleague, always update the colleague of your judgment and keep him posted of your findings or observations. Do not discuss the diagnosis or course of treatment with the patient , always talk to the physician in charge.

- **Do not over burden yourself:**

Whenever a fellow physician requests you to attend his patient in his temporary absence check your availability first. It is a professional courtesy to accept such appointment only when you have the bandwidth to discharge the duties.

- **Maintain Reputation of your colleague:**

When you are discharging duties towards other physicians you should take utmost care of the interest and reputation of the absent physician. If you find any notable problems you should update the physician in charge. All patients should be restored to the colleague upon his/her arrival.

Finally, it is important to remember that you are going to be on both sides of the court so when you treat your colleagues' patient always treat them as your patient. Show them the same affection and respect that will make them comfortable and give them the best possible treatment.