

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION DECLARATION OF LISBON ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PATIENTS

Adopted by the 34th World Medical Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal, September/October 1981

Recognizing that there may be practical, ethical or legal difficulties, a physician should always act according to his/her conscience and always in the best interest of the patient. The following Declaration represents some of the principal rights which the medical profession seeks to provide to patients.

Whenever legislation or government action denies these rights of the patient, physicians should seek by appropriate means to assure or to restore them.

- a) The patient has the right to choose his physician freely.
- b) The patient has the right to be cared for by a physician who is free to make clinical and ethical judgements without any outside interference.
- c) The patient has the right to accept or to refuse treatment after receiving adequate information.
- d) The patient has the right to expect that his physician will respect the confidential nature of all his medical and personal details.
- e) The patient has the right to die in dignity.
- f) The patient has the right to receive or to decline spiritual and moral comfort including the help of a minister of an appropriate religion.
