

For more than 2000 years, all new physicians were required to take this oath. In the 1970's, the A.M.A. began suggesting to medical schools that this requirement be dropped.

The Hippocratic Oath

Annotated

Hippocrates was a Greek physician, c. 460-377 B.C.

I will follow that system or regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider to be for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked nor suggest any such counsel, and in like manner I will not give to a woman the means to produce an abortion. Whenever I go into a house, I will go for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption, and further, from the seduction of females or males, whether freemen or slaves. Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, I see or hear which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will keep secret. So long as I continue to carry out this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men in all times, but should I violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

Quaint reference to house calls; now an anachronism.

The Greeks were not politically correct.

Indeed!

The Greeks may not have been politically correct; but they were realists.

This procedure ceased to be a crime in 1917 (Russia), 1936 (Germany), and 1974 (The United States).

Even before Dr. Jack Kevorkian began generating publicity, the medical establishment was having difficulty with this promise.

Most states now have laws which require physicians to report to government officials all suspected cases of child abuse, spouse abuse, and venereal disease.

Medicaid fraud was unknown to the ancient Greeks.