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Letter to Editor

Welles JF Ann Med & Surg Case Rep: AMSCR-1000032

Back to Medical Ethics

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Although nobody much reads the original Hippocratic Oath any more, it is essentially a commitment to keeping trade secrets. The modern version focuses on not taking advantage of patients sexually while providing medical care directed toward their health and well-being. Unfortunately, it does not address the current, rampant corruption of financial abuse which the insurance industry imposes on American physicians. How many time a day does a doctor provide services which are not necessary for the patient's health? It is called "Padding the bill" by anyone else, and it is unethical by any medical standard. If Hippocrates did honour the ageless maxim, "Do the patient no harm", that principle today should be extended beyond the patient's medical condition to his/her fi-

nancial condition as well. The sad fact is, the overwhelming proportion of physicians have sold their souls to insurance companies which are unabashedly dedicated to ripping off the patients and the government, which compliantly goes along with the scam.

It is time for physicians to band together and form their own insurance company grounded on the principle of providing only medically essential services and charging minimal rates. Once established, doctors would flock to it, leaving the money-grubbers with their pockets turned out on the outside looking in.

It is time for physicians to take back financial control of their profession. This is how to do it.