OBJECTIVES

After completing this educational activity on Professionalism and Communications with Colleagues, you should be able to:

• Identify two reasons why professionalism is important in patient care
• Identify two challenges to professionalism
• Restate Rule 12 of the Code of Ethics, Communications to Colleagues

PRE AND POST TEST QUESTIONS

1. You are the director of your State Society’s educational programs. A member submits an abstract for a talk and you know his disclosure statement is inaccurate. What should you do from a professionalism and collegial perspective?
   A. Allow the abstract to be reviewed.
   B. Disallow the abstract’s review until the disclosure statement is corrected.
   C. Disallow the abstract.
   D. A, then speak with the submitter.
   E. B or C above, depending on the State Society’s Bylaws.

2. A pharma rep suggests you begin selling a new AREDS formulation vitamin in your office to all your patients; he says you can make a tidy profit. What should you do from a professionalism perspective?
   A. Tell the rep to take a hike.
   B. Sell the vitamins and make a little profit, which you could use to hire a new tech.
   C. Sell the vitamins to patients who may benefit from them and disclosure to them your business/profit arrangement.
   D. A or C
   E. B and C

3. A new patient presents on a Friday morning with flashers and a “curtain” obscuring her vision. She relates that she called another ophthalmologists’ office, explained her symptoms, and was told by the front desk staff that “it was probably a tensions headache” and instructed her to all again on Monday if things had not improved. What should you do from a professionalism and collegial perspective?
   A. Treat the patent.
   B. Treat the patient and call the State Medical Board to report the other ophthalmologist’s practice.
   C. Treat the patient and then call the other ophthalmologist; tell him what the patient related about his office triage management.
4. A post-cataract surgery patient comes to your office for a second opinion. She has her record wither from the surgeon’s office. What you see on examination is not what is recorded in the surgeon’s operative note. What should you do from a professionalism and collegial perspective?
   A. Call the State Medical Board to report the operating ophthalmologist for either incompetence or covering-up a surgical complication.
   B. Tell the patient you suspect malpractice and suggest she contact an attorney.
   C. Call the operating surgeon and ask if there are any parts of the record that are missing because you do not see notes in the chart for what appears to be a surgical complication.