

## Policy & Procedure

DEPARTMENT: Medical Staff	ORIGINAL: 1/2011	PAGE: 1 of 1
POLICY: CONFLICT OF INTEREST	REVIEWED:	
APPROVAL:	DATE:	REVISED:

### **POLICY:**

A conflict of interest is a situation in which financial or other personal considerations have the potential to compromise or bias professional judgment and objectivity. A conflict of interest may include an employment arrangement; financial interest; official position; ownership interest; loan to or from; guarantee of any obligation of; or any other relationship that a physician or member of his or her immediate family has with the District, a vendor, competitor, or other business relation. Under no circumstances should a physician place his or her own interest above the welfare of the patient. The primary objective of the medical profession is to render service to humanity. Reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration. For a physician to unnecessarily hospitalize a patient, prescribe a drug, supply or conduct a diagnostic test for the physician's personal financial gain is unethical. If a conflict develops between the physician's personal interest and the physician's responsibilities to the patient, the conflict must be resolved in favor of the patient's welfare.

**PURPOSE:** To describe conflicts of interest that affects or has the potential to affect the safety, quality of care, treatment and services for the independent members of the medical staff in providing inpatient care or outpatient treatment performed at the District and to identify methods to resolve conflicts.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. A physician should disclose to his or her patient any financial interest in services, pharmaceuticals, supplies or equipment, inform the patient of available alternatives for referral and assure the patient that ongoing care is not conditioned on accepting the recommended referral.
2. In an instance where a satisfactory resolution with the patient cannot be achieved, the physician will work with the chief of service to ensure an orderly transfer of the patient's care to another member of the medical staff.