DMC/DC/F.14/Comp.777/2/2010/ 7th December, 2010

**ORDER**

The Delhi Medical Council examined a representation from Shri Kunal Saha, President, People for Better Treatment, raising the issue of violation of Code of Ethics by doctors of Safdarjung Hospital by resorting to strike. It is noted that the complainant has not filed any documents in support of his complaint nor have specified the names of doctors against whom the allegation of resorting to strike have been made. Be that as it may, the Delhi Medical Council is of the view that under no circumstances doctors should resort to strike as the same puts patient care in serious jeopardy and such actions are also in violation of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics), Regulations, 2002.

On this issue, the Council have circulated certain guidelines for registered medical practitioner, on earlier occasion also, the same are again reiterated herebelow :-

The principal objective of the medical profession is to render service to humanity with full respect for the dignity of profession and man, reward or financial gain is a subordinate consideration. A physician should be an upright man, instructed in the art of healing. He shall keep himself pure in character and be diligent in caring for the sick.

**Maintaining good medical practice :**

Physicians should merit the confidence of patients entrusted to their care, rendering to each a full measure of service and devotion. Physicians should try continuously to improve medical knowledge and skills and should make available to their patients and colleagues the benefits of their professional attainments. The physician should practice methods of healing founded on scientific basis and should not associate professionally with anyone who violates this principle.

Contd/-
Obligation to the Sick:
Though a physician is not bound to treat each and every person asking his services, he should not only be ever ready to respond to the calls of the sick and the injured, but should be mindful of the high character of his mission. A physician should endeavour to add to the comfort of the sick by making his visits at hour indicated to patients. A physician advising a patient to seek service of another physician is acceptable, however, in case of emergency a physician must treat the patient. No physician shall arbitrarily refuse treatment to a patient. However for good reason, when a patient is suffering from an ailment, which is not within the range of experience of the treating physician, the physician may refuse treatment and refer the patient to another physician.

Appointment of substitute:
Whenever a physician requests another physician to attend his patients during his temporary absence from his practice, professional courtesy requires the acceptance of such appointment only when he has the capacity to discharge the additional responsibility along with his/ her other duties.

Exposure of unethical conduct:
A physician should expose, without fear or favour, incompetent or corrupt, dishonest or unethical conduct on the part of members of the profession.

The patient must not be neglected:
A physician is free to choose whom he will serve. He should, however, respond to any request for his assistance in an emergency. Once having undertaken a case, the physician should not neglect the patient, nor should he withdraw from the case without giving adequate notice to the patient and his family.

Efforts should be made to resolve all issues which the medical professionals subscribe/promote/espouse and which may be considered to be conflicting/controversial in nature, through amicable, legitimate means, so that the interest of the patient’s is not undermined or compromised, under any circumstances.

Contd/
The Delhi Medical Council, therefore, directs the Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital to take note of the observations made hereinabove and disseminate this information amongst the doctors servicing in Safdarjung Hospital. It is also directed that copy of this Order be also sent to Directorate of Health Services, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Director General Health Services, Govt. of India, for circulation and compliance by all the hospitals working under these authorities.

Matter stands disposed.

By the Order & in the name of
Delhi Medical Council

(Dr. Girish Tyagi)
Secretary

Copy to :-

1) Shri Kunal Saha, President, People for Better Treatment (PBT), 2A, Rakhal Mukherjee Road, Kolkata – 700025, INDIA

2) Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

3) Director Health Services, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Swasthya Sewa Nideshalay Bhawan, F-17, Karkardooma, Delhi – 110032 – for information and necessary action.

4) Director General Health Services, Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi – for information and necessary action.

(Dr. Girish Tyagi)
Secretary