

To: Attendees of the IMQ Professionalism Program

From: William May, PhD

Subject: Pre-Course Requirements

The program has three components: Pre-Course Assignments, the two two-day Ethics Course, and a Longitudinal Follow-up. **NOTE: The requirements of each of the components have been specified by the Medical Board of California. All requirements and assignments must be fulfilled for completion of the Program.**

This communication contains information on the pre-course assignments. You already have completed the first assignment by submitting the Application Form. You also must complete three other pre-course assignments. The first two, the baseline knowledge test and the essay and statement, must be completed and returned to IMQ, along with any fees not paid. A total of \$1995 is due.

1) Baseline Knowledge Test: This test will be used to determine each participant's level of knowledge in the areas of ethics and laws relating to the practice of medicine in California.

The test **WILL NOT BE GRADED**. The purpose of the test is to provide the instructors with an understanding of participants' present knowledge. This information will be helpful in the content of various components of the two-day course.

- Part One) tests knowledge on specific legal requirements as set out in California law and/or AMA Judicial Council Rulings
- Part Two) elicits your present opinion on a variety of current ethical issues in medicine.

You should allow 1-2 hours for this test.

2) ESSAY: There are two parts to this assignment:

1) To help you familiarize the instructors with the factors that led to your referral to the Professionalism Program, **write an essay** describing the event(s) leading to Medical Board action. In your essay, discuss what, in your opinion, could have been done to avoid Board action.

2) In addition to the essay,

3) STATEMENT: Develop a **statement** that includes

- a) your expectations for the program
- b) recognition of the need for change, and
- c) a statement of your commitment to change.

There is no minimum number of pages, but it is suggested that you write at least two pages EACH for the essay and the statement. Simple statements such as, "I recognize the need for change." will not be adequate to fulfill the assignment.

Please give some care and thought to your responses. The essay will be helpful to the instructors in understanding your situation. Writing the essay will help you prepare for the Ethics Course, and it will contribute to a beneficial experience.*

* We are fully aware that many participants feel unfairly penalized. We are looking for a constructive response to begin to work out of whatever problem led to your requirement to participate in the Professionalism Program.

You should spend at least one hour on the essay and statement.

3) Pre-Course Reading Assignment: To help you prepare for the two-day course you must read each of the following assignments from three readings enclosed. The three readings are from:

- AMA Code of Medical Ethics – a book put out by the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs. In the AMA Code of Ethics book, please read with care the prefatory material in the pages numbered with Roman numerals, pp. iii to lii. Take time to look through the Table of Contents as you would a map of a country you are planning to visit. Specifically read the Preface and History sections, the Guide to Use of Annotations, pp. xii and xiii, and the Principles of Medical Ethics, p. xiv. Review the Principles with Annotations, pp. xv to lii to see how the Principles have been interpreted and used.

Finally, take time to review those sections of the Judicial Opinions that refer most closely to your situation. This is a resource book for use on specific issues when they arise.

- The Hippocratic Oath
Read the Hippocratic Oath with care. Compare the Hippocratic Oath with the AMA Principles of Medical Ethics. Come to the course prepared to discuss important differences between the two documents.
- Edmund Pellegrino, M.D. “The Virtuous Physician and the Ethics of Medicine”
Read Pellegrino’s article with an eye toward understanding of the three-tiered system of obligations related to the special roles of physicians in society. **Come to the class prepared to discuss the pros and cons of the three tiers.**

Please allow at least one hour for the readings.

If you have any questions about this material, please call Leslie Anne Iacopi at 415.882.5167. I look forward to meeting you at the course starting at 8:00.

REMINDER: The first two requirements, the baseline knowledge test and the essay and statement, must be completed and returned in the enclosed envelope to IMQ .

Bring all other materials in this packet with you to the course.