

Position Statement on Dispensing

(Approved by the Board of Directors: October 12, 1998;
Amended by the Board of Directors: September 26, 1999; August 3, 2024)

Dermatologists who dispense or sell prescription or non-prescription drugs, remedies, products or appliances should do so with their patients' best interests as their highest priority. It is ethical for dermatologists to dispense and/or sell prescription or non-prescription drugs, remedies, products and appliances to patients in a clinic or office setting except in the following circumstances:

1. When the dermatologist places his/her own financial interests above the welfare of his/her patients.
2. When the sale is coercive to patients such that they feel compelled to make the purchase from the dermatologist.
3. When dispensing prescription and non-prescription drugs under a dermatologist's private label without clearly listing the ingredients, including generic names of the drugs.
4. When falsely representing the prescription or non-prescription drugs, remedies, products or appliances as being unavailable elsewhere.
5. When selling health-related products whose claims of benefit lack validity.
6. When refusing to refill prescription or non-prescription drugs except when they are purchased from the dermatologist.
7. When prohibited by state or federal law.

This Position Statement is provided for educational and informational purposes only. It is intended to offer physicians guiding principles and policies regarding the practice of dermatology. This Position Statement is not intended to establish a legal or medical standard of care. Physicians should use their personal and professional judgment in interpreting these guidelines and applying them to the particular circumstances of their individual practice arrangements.