

GERONTOLOGICAL ADVANCE PRACTICE NURSES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON ADVANCED PRACTICE GERONTOLOGICAL NURSES INTERACTIONS WITH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Whereas, both the pharmaceutical industry and health care providers have come under scrutiny for extravagant drug marketing practices with media reports of apparent improprieties, expensive gifts, questionable medical education programs, fraud, and abuse alleged to contribute to the rising costs of drugs and health care, and,

Whereas, on 18 April, 2002, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) adopted a voluntary Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals^{1,2} and revised code effective January 2009 to govern the pharmaceutical industry's relationships with physicians and other health care professionals, and,

Whereas, in June, 2002, the American Medical Association updated its Guidelines on Gifts to Physicians from Industry which later appeared in the AMA Code of Medical Ethics² to help physicians and industry representatives make ethical decisions regarding the appropriateness of gifts, and,

Whereas, on 30 September, 2002, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the Department of Health and Human Services released an initial draft of Compliance Program Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers³ with 31 principles for interacting with United States customers "to engage the health care industry in preventing and reducing fraud and abuse in Federal health care programs," and on 28 April, 2003, adopted the final version of this guide, and,

Whereas, advanced practice gerontological nurses (APNs) often interact with representatives of companies in the pharmaceutical, biological device, and medical equipment industries who may provide gifts that serve important and socially beneficial functions, and,

Whereas, the Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA), a national organization of gerontological APNs, and its individual members often are invited to participate in industry-sponsored activities, including advisory boards, continuing education programs, entertainment, consultation, market research, promotional activities, et al, and wish to avoid any unethical conduct or appearance of impropriety,

Therefore be it resolved, that the Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) is committed to the highest ethical standards as well as all legal requirements for prescription medicines and other treatments to benefit patients, minimize health care costs, and enhance health, aging, and the advanced practice of nursing, and,

Be it further resolved, that the GAPNA fully supports and abides by the PhRMA Code on

Interactions with Healthcare Professionals, the AMA Guidelines of Gifts to Physicians from the Industry, and the OIG Compliance Program Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, and,

Be it further resolved, that GAPNA, as a national organization, may participate in legitimate industry-sponsored activities that include fair and unbiased consultation, education, and research, but not in marketing or promotional activities that are biased or might imply the endorsement of any specific company or product.

Adopted at GAPNA Annual Meeting, September 20, 2009; Revisions approved by the GAPNA Board of Directors March 19, 2009

¹PhRMA, (April 19, 2002), PhRMA adopts new marketing code. www.phrma.org.

²PhRMA, (Revised effective January 2009) Code on Interactions with Healthcare Professionals. www.phrma.org

³American Medical Association, (2002), Ethical options/guidelines. www.ama-assn.org.

⁴Office of Inspector General, (April, 2003), Compliance program for pharmaceutical manufacturers. www.oig.hhs.gov.