

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**  
**Operations Division**  
**Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-D-02.13**

SUBJECT: MORAL AND ETHICAL OBJECTION

POLICY: A Pharmacist may object to filling orders he or she finds morally or ethically objectionable. Individual pharmacists are within their legal rights to refuse to fill; provided they comply with all other requirements of this policy and the patients' needs are met in a timely manner.

REFERENCE: NCCHC Standard P-D-02, Medication Services  
OAR 855-041-0160  
OAR 855-041-0177  
Board of Pharmacy Position Statement "Clarification" 6/7/06

PROCEDURE:

- A. A pharmacist may exercise personal choice to participate or not in filling orders or dispensing medications they find morally or ethically objectionable.
- B. If a pharmacist elects not to participate in dispensing medication to a patient based on a moral or ethical belief, it is the responsibility of that pharmacist to locate another pharmacist who is both willing and able to dispense without delay. An objecting pharmacist may not, in any way, hamper the timely filling of a valid order and may not lecture, harass or otherwise attempt to influence the patient.
- C. In order for the Department of Corrections to adequately fulfill its obligation to patients, it is necessary to inquire of each pharmacist as to their willingness to participate in the dispensing of said prescriptions. Disclosure must be made to the Pharmacist in Charge (PIC) and will be made available to the other DOC pharmacists, the Assistant Administrator of Pharmacy and Medical Stores, the Medical Director and on a need to know basis, other medical professionals. To protect the privacy of the pharmacists, no written record will be kept of said disclosure.
- D. This policy, as well as pharmacist willingness to dispense is to be reviewed by all Department of Corrections pharmacists annually. Each pharmacist will be asked to sign a signature page signifying they have read and understand this policy. A copy of the updated acknowledgement signature page will be retained in the records of the Pharmacist in Charge.

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Review date: August 2014  
Supersedes P&P dated: October 2013