

The Ohio Society of Health-System Pharmacists Position Statement on Conscientious Objection

In recent years, there have been conflicts between patients and pharmacists as some pharmacists have refused to fill a legal prescription based on moral, ethical, or religious grounds. Most conflicts involve the dispensing of birth control and emergency contraceptives.

OSHP supports a pharmacist's right to refuse to fill a prescription based on moral, ethical, or religious grounds. However, in doing so, the pharmacist must make "reasonable accommodations" for the patient. Examples of reasonable accommodations include: finding the medication at another pharmacy that is within a reasonable traveling distance for the patient or asking another pharmacist to fill the prescription if available. If a pharmacist follows the above "reasonable accommodations", he/she should not be subject to punitive actions. A pharmacist may not impose upon the patient his/her beliefs or opinions.

Adopted by the House of Delegates
May 11, 2007