



**Position Statement  
on  
Dispensing  
(Approved by the Board of Directors: October 12, 1998;  
Amended by the Board of Directors: September 26, 1999)**

Dermatologists should not dispense or supply drugs, remedies or appliances unless it is manifestly in the best interest of their patients.

Dermatologists who dispense in office should do so in a manner with the best interest of their patient as their highest priority, as it is in all other aspects of dermatologic practice.

It is ethical to dispense, by sale, prescription or non-prescription drugs, to patients in a dermatologist's office except in the following circumstances:

1. When the dermatologist places his/her own financial interests above the welfare of his/her patients.
2. When creating an atmosphere which is coercive to patients such that they feel compelled to purchase drugs from the dermatologist.
3. When dispensing drugs under a dermatologist's private label without clearly listing the ingredients, including generic names of the drugs.
4. When dispensing to patients drugs which are easily available at proprietary pharmacies without advising patients of this availability.
5. When representing drugs as being a special formula not elsewhere available, when that is not the case.
6. When selling health-related products whose claims of benefit lack validity.
7. When refusing to give refills of drugs except that they be purchased from the dermatologist.
8. When charging patients at an excessive mark-up rate.

*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.*