The Oath of Hippocrates – LSU version

I do solemnly swear by whatever I hold most sacred, that I will be loyal to the profession of medicine and will be just and generous to its members and will teach those who follow after me in this profession:

- diligent study in medical school courses and in one’s field of specialty
- participation in learning activities
- maintaining up-to-date skills and knowledge and ensuring one’s own competence
- communicating well with colleagues and patients
- understanding responsibilities to colleagues, patients, and society
- practicing medicine according to moral, legal, and ethical codes
- teaching and assisting others in the profession according to one’s own ability
- always stating one’s qualifications, skills, and knowledge truthfully

that I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honor

- being honest and trustworthy in all documentation
- avoiding inappropriate relationships with patients
- avoiding financial or personal conflicts of interest
- maintaining honesty when assessing the performance of colleagues, students, and teachers
- disclosing medical errors
- applying principles of medical ethics to one’s practice
- abstaining from alcohol and drugs when responsible for patient care
- complying with established standards when participating in research

that into whatever home I shall enter, it shall be for the good of the sick and of the well and to the utmost of my power I will hold myself aloof from wrong and from corruption and from tempting others to vice.

- maintaining competence in medical history taking and performing physical examinations
- using evidence to make medical decisions
- constant striving to improve patient care practices
- avoiding deception to patients, other healthcare providers, and insurance companies
- advocating for patients within the healthcare system
- recommending plans of care only after consideration of patient’s lifestyle, health, capacity for cooperation, emotional state, and preference

that I will exercise my art solely for the cure of my patients and for the prevention of disease. I will give no drugs or perform no operation for a criminal purpose, and will never recommend such a thing.

- applying principles of beneficence and nonmaleficence in patient care
- dedication to the efficient and optimal use of resources
- using evidence to make medical decisions
- constant striving to improve patient care practices

that whatever I shall see or hear that concerns the lives of my patients which is not fitting to be spoken, I will keep secret forever

- maintaining patient confidentiality
- understanding exceptions to maintaining patient confidentiality

These things I do promise. In proportion to the degree that I am faithful to this oath, may happiness and good repute be ever mine, and may the opposite befall me if I am false to my word.