

SUBJECT: TEACHING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ABOUT
 MEDICINES--TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR

SUBMITTED BY: Bureau of Scientific Affairs and Public Health and Council on AOA Policy

REFERRED TO: Committee on Public Affairs

1 RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Scientific Affairs and Public Health and the Council on
2 AOA Policy recommend that the following policy be Reaffirmed:

3 **H261-A/04 TEACHING CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ABOUT**
4 **MEDICINES--TEN GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR**

5 The American Osteopathic Association endorses the United States Pharmacopeia (USP)
6 position statement of the following “Ten Guiding Principles for Teaching Children and
7 Adolescents About Medicines:”
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- 9 1. Children, as users of medicines, have a right to appropriate information about their
10 medicines that reflects the child's health status, capabilities, and culture.
11 2. Healthcare providers and health educators should communicate directly with children
12 about their medicines.
13 3. Children's interests in medicine should be encouraged, and they should be taught how to
14 ask questions of healthcare providers, parents, and other caregivers about medicines and
15 other therapies.
16 4. The actions of parents and other caregivers should show children appropriate use of
17 medicines.
18 5. Children, their parents, and their healthcare providers should negotiate the gradual
19 transfer of responsibility for medicine use in ways that respect parental responsibilities
20 and the health status and capabilities of the child.
21 6. Children's medicine education should take into account what children want to know
22 about medicines, as well as what health professionals think children should know.
23 7. Children should receive basic information about medicines and their proper use as a part
24 of school health education.
25 8. Children's medicine education should include information about the general use and
26 misuse of medicines, as well as about the specific medicines the child is using.
27 9. Children have a right to information that will enable them to avoid poisoning through
28 the misuse of medicines.
29 10. Children asked to participate in clinical trials (after parents' consent) have a right to
30 receive appropriate information to promote their understanding before assent and
31 participation. 1999; reaffirmed 2004

ACTION TAKEN APPROVED

DATE 7/17/09