



## **The Physician's Pledge from The Geneva Declaration (modern Hippocratic Oath)**

*Information collated by Elizabeth O'Brien, to show what Dr Monigatti of the New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) likely pledged when he graduated as a medical doctor – see next article*

In the online news article *Queenstown doctor key in change to Hippocratic Oath*, Karen Brown, Health Correspondent at Radio New Zealand, (13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/341477/queenstown-doctor-key-in-change-to-hippocratic-oath>) states:

Doctors have long been required to focus on their duty of care to patients.

For 2500 years they did this through the Hippocratic Oath and, since World War II, the Declaration of Geneva.

The New Zealand doctor's 2017 amendment to the Physician's Pledge from the Declaration of Geneva was:

I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard.

According to the World Medical Association (WMA) [ <https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-geneva/> ] in 1948, the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the World Medical Association adopted the **WMA Declaration of Geneva**, appearing below [with all previous amendments up until May 2006]:

### **The Physician's Pledge**

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;



I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

I WILL FOSTER the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honour.

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