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## Letters to the Editor ...

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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2. That patients have a right:
  - a. To privacy.
  - b. To integrity of person.
  - c. To quality medical care.
  - d. The right to die, as well as the right to live with dignity.
  - e. The expectation that their consciences will not be violated, (use of blood by Jehovah's Witnesses, etc.).
3. That the spiritual needs, as well as the corporal needs of patients, require consideration.

It therefore follows that under this code of ethics, *direct* killing and *direct* sterilization is prohibited. Thus prohibited would be induced abortions, euthanasia, tubal ligations and vasectomies.

However, *indirect* killing and *indirect* sterilization is licit when medically indicated, such as:

- a. Salpingectomy for ectopic pregnancy or disease.
- b. Hysterectomy.
- c. Castration for carcinoma of the breast or other disease.
- d. Heavy sedation in terminal illnesses.

Physicians practicing in this hospital have a responsibility to the hospital and to the patients to provide quality medical care while adhering to this code of ethics.

The medical aspect of good medicine is certainly easier to take than the permissive legal aspect of our Canadian Catholic legislators have promulgated.

J.B. Costello, M.D.  
Vancouver, B.C.,  
Canada.

## Letters To The Editor . . .

To The Editor:

The Catholic Physicians' Guild could make a very valuable contribution to North American society if they became involved in the major issues which concern the members as Catholics and as physicians.

The articles in the *Linacre Quarterly* over the years have been mainly about the catechetics of sexual morality, sex instruction of children, contraception, sterilization, and also about death, abortion, and euthanasia. At least since Vatican II these topics are the concern of the individual conscience. The subject matter has been overworked and the discussions become tedious and somewhat irrelevant and are reminiscent of the debates for and against the pasteurization of milk.

Thomas Linacre was an eminent physician and humanist and was respected by such men as Erasmus and Thomas More. The editor should attempt to emulate his efforts.

The whole involvement of the Catholic Church in the Health-Science fields must be completely restructured. This includes Catholic educational facilities, Catholic hospitals and Catholic social agencies and Catholic foreign missions. We cannot preserve the anachronistic institutions of the

past but we can adapt them to the needs of the present and of the future.

Yours sincerely

Paul M. O'Sullivan  
Don Mills, Ontario

To The Editor:

I am sorry to say this but your moralists are about twenty years behind the average Catholic Physician. Why not print something by Hellegers of Georgetown University, Obstetrics & Gynecology Dept.?? It is silly to have ENT men talking about birth control when they do not touch the problem in their offices.

Sincerely,

J.E. Gottemoller, M.D.  
301 South Bloomington  
Streator, Illinois 61364

To the Editor:

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Sincerely,

C.J. Maternowski, M.D.  
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