BANGALORE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY - IADVL Bangalore, Karnataka

www.bdsmembers.in



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Dr. Harini Thummuluri Mob : 95903 36777 Dear Members,

Season's Greetings from Bangalore Dermatological Society.

Off late, we have noticed that some of our members have associated themselves with online aggregator platforms like Practo, Pristine care, etc to gain patients. These platforms offer patients and charge a commission for the same . We wish to remind our members that not only is this unethical, it is also a violation of the law. These platforms might appear lucrative initially, but are disastrous for our practice in the long run.

The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, states that,

A Physician shall not give, solicit, or receive nor shall he offer to give, solicit, or receive any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus in consideration of or return for the referring, recommending or procuring of any patient for medical, surgical or other treatment. A physician shall not directly or indirectly, participate in or be a party to act of division, transference, assignment, subordination, rebating, splitting or refunding of any fee for medical, surgical or other treatment. (Section 6.4.1)

Additionally, it is clearly stated that "A Physician shall not use touts or agents for procuring patients." (Section 7.19)

With respect to the above, we would like to request members to resist from associating with above online platforms that are nothing but illegal sales platforms. Those that have already associated are requested to withdraw from the same. These agents only lead to a situation of divide and rule, and create an unhealthy competition amongst our own fraternity resulting in decline in quality and loss of camaraderie.

In the event that any member is found doing the same, he/she may be referred to the Medical Council for necessary action.

Let us stay united and resolve to uphold ethics and pledge not to fall prey to slavery.

Best regards,

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