

Lægeløftet

Det lægeløfte, der anvendes i Danmark, kan afgives af enhver efter bestået lægevidenskabelig kandidateksamen. Det afgives i København overfor det sundhedsvidenskabelige fakultets dekan, hvilket er en betingelse for tilladelse til virksomhed som læge og at benytte den af autorisationsloven beskyttede titel 'læge':

Efter at have aflagt offentlig prøve på mine i de medicinsk-kirurgiske fag erhvervede kundskaber, aflægger jeg herved det løfte, til hvis opfyldelse jeg end ydermere ved håndsækning har forpligtet mig,

at jeg ved mine forretninger som praktiserende læge stedse skal lade det være mig magtpåliggende efter bedste skønnende at anvende mine kundskaber med flid og omhu til samfundets og mine medmenneskers gavn,

at jeg stedse vil bære lige samvittighedsfuld omsorg for den fattige som for den rige uden persons anseelse,

at jeg ikke ubeføjet vil åbenbare, hvad jeg i min egenskab af læge har erfaret,

at jeg vil søge mine kundskaber fremdeles udvidede og i øvrigt gøre mig bekendt med og nøje efterleve de mig og mit fag vedkommende anordninger og bestemmelser.

Hippokratisk ed

Det danske lægeløfte stammer i sin nuværende udformning fra 1815, men er baseret på den såkaldt hippokratiske ed¹ fra ca 400 f.Kr., som i Heinrich von Stadens engelske oversættelse² lyder således:

I swear by Apollo the Physician, by Asclepius, by Hygeia, by Panacea and by all the gods and goddesses, making them witnesses, to bring the following oath and written covenant to fulfillment, in accordance with my power and my judgment:

To regard him who has taught me this art as equal to my parents, and to share, in partnership, my livelihood with him and to give him a share when he is in need of necessities, and to judge the offspring coming from him equal to my male siblings, and to teach them this art, should they desire to learn it, without fee and written covenant, and to give a share both of rules and of lectures, and of all the rest of learning, to my sons and to the sons of him who has taught me and to the pupils who have both made a written contract and sworn by a medical convention but by no other.

And I will use regimens for the benefit of the ill in accordance with my ability and my judgment, but from what is to their harm or injustice I will keep them. And I will not give a drug that is deadly to anyone if asked for it, nor will I suggest the way to such a counsel. And likewise I will not give a woman a destructive pessary. And in a pure and holy way I will guard my life and my art. I will not cut, and certainly not those suffering from stone, but I will cede this to men who are practitioners of this activity. Into as many house as I may enter, I will go for the benefit of the ill, while being far from all voluntary and destructive injustice, especially from sexual acts both upon women's bodies and upon men's, both of the free and of the slaves. And about whatever I may see or hear in treatment, or even without treatment, in the

¹ <https://www.fmu.ac.jp/home/icsh/pdf/kiyoo/2019-11-01.pdf>,
<https://www.fmu.ac.jp/home/icsh/pdf/kiyoo/2020-11-01.pdf>

² <http://irisonline.org.uk/index.php/features/519-the-hippocratic-oath>

life of human beings – things that should not ever be blurted out outside – I will remain silent, holding such things to be unutterable sacred, not to be divulged.

If I render this oath fulfilled, and if I do not blur and confound it making it to no effect, may it be granted to me to enjoy the benefits both of life and of art, being held in good repute among all human beings for time eternal. If, however, I transgress and perjure myself, the opposite of these.