Panel Discussion
“Professionalism Saves Our Patients”
Scenario Presentation and Discussion

Scenario presenter: Iwao Gohma, MD, FCCP, FJSIM

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Case 1
Dr. M graduated from medical school 8 years ago. He has been a member of a clinical department at a university and assigned to work at an affiliated hospital in a remote area.
He is feeling left out from recent advancements in his area of specialty and frustrated that he is not given as many educational opportunities as his colleagues at the university.
CME activities of interest to Dr. M are often available in urban areas. Since it takes 40 minutes by car to drive to the city, it is not easy for Dr. M to attend the conferences, even when they feature his specialty and expose him to cutting-edge practice.
The MR said, “Professor S from your department at the university will give a talk during our lecture session at C Hotel next Friday. We will offer you taxi tickets for your round trip. We would like to have you come and join us.”

Dr. M accepted the taxi tickets thankfully.
Dr. M attended the lecture and learned about the most updated study results from professor S. He was excited about the idea that he would start a research project on the new theme after going back to the university the following year.
Additionally, Dr. M enjoyed the pleasant time with his friends the delicious buffet, and several glasses of wine.
Question
What do you think of Dr. M’s behavior?

Was it appropriate or inappropriate?

And why do you think so?
Case 2
Dr. M has been working as a general physician for 20 years. Recently he has had to spend more time managing and less time in clinical practice.
He feels a little ashamed at not having up-to-date evidence and occasionally has to obtain it from his residents.
A MR visited Dr. M and said, “Thank you very much for prescribing our bisphosphonate BONEST (pseudonym) to most of your patients. As you know, the new osteoporosis guideline was just issued last month. We brought the booklet of new guidelines for your convenience.

I hope you would confirm that BONEST is a grade A recommendation in the new guidelines and find it most beneficial to your patients. Thank you very much.”
He received the guideline booklet that has a listed price of 3,000 yen.
Dr. M simply felt lucky to have received the guideline booklet free of charge, because he wanted to read it but didn’t feel it was worth paying 3,000 yen. Since he does not have expertise in osteoporosis, he immediately started to read the guidelines.
What do you think of Dr. M’s behavior?

Was it appropriate or inappropriate?

And why do you think so?
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