

Here is the Ethical Opinion from MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society regarding this subject:

DISSOLUTION OF MEDICAL PRACTICE; TERMINATION OF PHYSICIAN EMPLOYEE

When physicians dissolve a professional corporation or partnership, or when a physician group discharges a physician employee, the patient's best interest must be paramount, regardless of the dispute that may arise in such situations. It would be desirable to have this resolved in the agreement when the corporation is created. (PEC 4/23/02, ratified by HOD 10/17/04)

The notice of the change in providers should be provided to patients in a timely manner. It should indicate the date of the dissolution or discharge, the address, and telephone number of the physician(s) who will be available for continued patient care. If the departing physician(s) is (are) continuing practice, the address and telephone number of the departing physician(s), when known, should be made available to patients for continued care.

Appropriate instructions should be given to the office staff concerning the handling of patients' questions. All physicians involved should act in a fair and professional manner. The patient must always have free choice of physician unless the patient has limited this right by contract with an alternative delivery system. (Council 2/12/87; ratified by HOD 9/8/96)