
20. EMERGENCY CASES.

When a physician is called to an urgent case, because the usual attendant is not at hand, unless assistance in consultation is desired, the former should resign the care of the patient immediately on the arrival of the regular physician. It often happens, in case of sudden illness, and of accidents and injuries, owing to the alarm and anxiety of friends, that several physicians are called at the same time. Under these circumstances courtesy should assign the patient to the first who arrives, and who, if necessary, may ask the aid of some of those present. In such case, however, the acting physician should request that the family physician be called, and should then withdraw unless requested to continue in attendance.

21. DUTY TO REGULAR ATTENDANT.

When a physician is called to the patient of another physician during the enforced absence of that physician the case should be relinquished on the return of the latter. While visiting in the country a physician may be asked to see another physician's patient because of sudden aggravation of the disease. The immediate needs of the patient should be attended to and the case relinquished on the arrival of the attending physician. When a physician who has been engaged to attend an obstetric case is absent and another is sent for, delivery being accomplished during the vicarious attendance, the acting physician is entitled to the professional fee, but must resign the patient on the arrival of the physician first engaged.