



Practice Philosophy

1. At Kwak Family Medicine, PC (KFM), we will strive to do our best to meet your primary care needs. We encourage you to bring to our attention any concerns that you have about your care.
2. It is our belief that the practice of medicine is neither solely a science nor solely an art. Instead, we believe that it is a combination of both. The scientific aspect of medicine is evidenced by the constantly changing understanding of human diseases through new discoveries and research. Sometimes the present guidelines of a certain health condition may contradict previously-held ones. Dr. Kwak ascribes to the “Evidence-Based Medicine” and believes in prescribing his treatments according to the up-to-date understanding but admits that his treatments may change over time according to new evidence. The art side of medicine is influenced by the clinician’s personal experience, personality and beliefs. It is this aspect of medicine that may make the practice of medicine at KFM slightly different from what you’d experience at other practices.
3. We believe that the best health outcomes are achieved when the patient and the physician work together as a team. Your health is ultimately dependent on your care of your body. We ask that you do your best to promptly consult us for your illnesses and receive your routine age-dependent preventative exams (“physical exams”). If at any point you disagree or do not get better with Dr. Kwak’s treatments or recommendations we ask that you promptly notify him of your condition. Dr. Kwak is realistic about his limitations and does not believe that he has the answers to all questions. He will either promptly reconsider his treatment or consult a specialist to get the care you need. This cooperative teamwork can reduce the possibility of your conditions from deteriorating. Unfortunately, human diseases are sometimes unstoppable and even with the best intentions of the physicians and patients involved, bad outcomes do occur. It is not Dr. Kwak’s wish to eradicate death. He believes death is as natural part of life as birth is. It is the untimely death or preventable death that he wishes he can help his patients avoid.
4. Dr. Kwak believes in his role as the physician to treat acute illnesses and to improve the quality of patients’ lives. He respects the wishes of his patients and understands that sometimes the patients do not necessarily wish to get all the care that may be available or recommended. He will do his best to explain to those patients the consequences of such decisions.
5. Dr. Kwak is a firm believer in preventing diseases with the help of immunizations. However he does respect the wishes of certain parents who choose not to vaccinate their children. The parents will be required to sign a “Refusal to vaccinate” document and they and their children will remain as patients of KFM.

6. Dr. Kwak believes firmly in the “first, do no harm” Hippocratic oath that he took as a medical student and promises not to prescribe any harmful treatments knowingly. This may include sometimes saying “no” to certain medications that patients or the family wish. The reasoning behind his refusal for certain medications will be fully explained to the patient. Dr. Kwak will not advocate or recommend abortion to a pregnant woman. This does not mean that those who choose abortion will be discriminated against at KFM.
7. Even though the public often perceives the practice of medicine as just altruistic, the medical practice is as much a business as any other businesses that our patients engage in to earn a living. It is the time that a physician gives to his patients and his professional advice that are his “products”. We ask that our patients understand this reality and do not expect that the services they receive here should be given free. We ask that patients don’t call us expecting to get a free medical advice for a new non-urgent condition that’s not been discussed before as these issues should be dealt in the office and should be charged.
8. Patients who have chronic medical conditions and are on prescription medications will be asked to return regularly for visits. It is our policy not to routinely renew prescriptions for such patients unless they are seen on a regular basis.
9. It is our policy not to discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, medical condition, marital status, veteran status, disability, or any other legally protected status.
10. Conditions such as acute chest pain, compromise of airway, sudden loss of ability to control limbs, acute head traumas and penetrating injuries due to a weapon are examples of conditions that should be best treated at a hospital, as timely care can be crucial. The patient experiencing such symptoms should call 911 or immediately go to the hospital.
11. If a patient of KFM leaves the practice for whatever reason and later decides to return, no questions will be asked and the patient will be gladly welcomed back.
12. Dr. Kwak has been educating the students at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School for a number of years. At KFM, there may be a student at any given moment and the patient may be interviewed or examined by one. The patient’s wish to not have a medical student in exam room will be honored.