

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences Code of Ethics of the American Society for Medical Technology¹

Preamble

The Code of Ethics of the American Society of Medical Technology (ASMT) sets forth the principles and standards by which clinical laboratory professionals practice their profession.

The professional conduct of clinical laboratory professionals is based on the following duties and principles:

I. Duty to the patient

Clinical laboratory professionals are accountable for the quality and integrity of the laboratory service they provide. This obligation includes continuing competence in both judgement and performance as individual practitioners, as well as in striving to safeguard the patient from incompetent or illegal practice by others.

Clinical laboratory professionals maintain high standards of practice and promote the acceptance of such standards at every opportunity. They exercise sound judgement in establishing, performing and evaluating laboratory testing.

Clinical laboratory professionals perform their services with regard for the patient as an individual, respecting his or her right to confidentiality, the uniqueness of his or her needs and his or her right to timely access to needed services. Clinical laboratory professionals provide accurate information to others about the services they provide.

II. Duty to Colleagues and the Profession

Clinical laboratory professionals accept responsibility to individually contribute to the advancement of the profession through a variety of activities. These activities include contributions to the body of knowledge of the profession; establishing and implementing high standards of practice and education; seeking fair socioeconomic working conditions for themselves and other members of the profession, and holding their colleagues and the profession in high regard and esteem.

Clinical laboratory professionals actively strive to establish cooperative and insightful working relationships with other health professionals, keeping in mind their primary objective to ensure a high standard of care for the patients they serve.

II. Duty to Society

Clinical laboratory professionals share with other citizens the duties of responsible citizenship. As practitioners of an autonomous profession, they have the responsibility to contribute from their sphere of professional competence to the general well-being of the community, and specifically to the resolution of social issues affecting their practice and collective good.

Clinical laboratory professionals comply with relevant laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of clinical laboratory science and actively seek, within the dictates of their consciences, to change those which do not meet the high standards of care and practice to which the profession is committed.

As a clinical laboratory professional, I acknowledge my professional responsibility to:

- Maintain and promote standards of excellence in performing and safeguarding the art and science of my profession;
- Safeguard the dignity and privacy of patients;
- Hold my colleagues and my profession in high esteem;
- Contribute to the general well-being of the community; and
- Actively demonstrate my commitment to these responsibilities throughout my professional life.

1. Taken from Case Studies in Allied Health Ethics, by R. Veatch and H. Flack, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1997