

Code of Ethics

Preamble

The goal of this code of ethics is to promote excellence in patient care by fostering responsibility and accountability among diagnostic medical sonographers. In so doing, the integrity of the profession of diagnostic medical sonography will be maintained.

Objectives

To create and encourage an environment where professional and ethical issues are discussed and addressed. To help the individual practitioner identify ethical issues. To provide guidelines for individual practitioners regarding ethical behavior.

Principle I : In order to promote patient well-being, the diagnostic medical sonographer shall:

- a. To provide information to the patient about the purpose, risk and benefits of the ultrasound procedure and respond to the patient's questions and concerns.
- b. Respect the patient's autonomy and the right to refuse the procedure.
- c. Recognize the patient's individuality and provide care in a non-judgmental and non-discriminatory manner.
- d. Promote the privacy, dignity, and comfort of the patient (relatives and significant others) by thoroughly explaining procedure protocols and implementing proper draping techniques.
- e. Protect confidentiality of acquired patient information.
- f. Strive to ensure patient safety

Principle II: To promote the highest level of competent practice, diagnostic medical sonographers shall:

- a. Obtain appropriate ultrasound education and clinical skills to ensure competence.
- b. Achieve and maintain specialty specific ultrasound credentials. Ultrasound credentials must be awarded by a national sonography credentialing body recognized by the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Board of Directors.
- c. Uphold professional standards by adhering to defined technical protocols and diagnostic criteria established by peer review.
- d. Acknowledge personal and legal limits, practice within the defined scope of practice and assume responsibility for his/her actions.
- e. Maintain continued competence through continuing education and/ or recertification.
- f. Perform only medically indicated studies, ordered by a physician or their designated health care provider.
- g. Protect patients and or/ study subjects by adhering to oversight and approval of investigational procedures, including documented informed consent.
- h. Refrain from the use of any substances that may alter judgment or skill and thereby compromise patient care.

- i. Be accountable and participate in regular assessment and review of equipment, procedures protocols and results.

Principle III: To promote professional integrity and public trust, the diagnostic medical sonographer shall.

- a. Be truthful and promote appropriate and timely communications with patients, colleagues, and the public.
- b. Respect the rights of patients, colleagues, the public and yourself.
- c. Avoid conflicts of interest and situations that exploit others or misrepresent information.
- d. Accurately represent his/her level of competence, education, and certification.
- e. Promote equitable care.
- f. Collaborate with professional colleagues to create an environment that promotes communication and respect.
- g. Recognize that well-intentioned healthcare providers can find themselves in ethical dilemmas; communicate and collaborate with others in resolving ethical practice. Report deviations from the SDMS Code of Ethics for the Profession of Diagnostic Medical Sonography to supervisors, so that they may be addressed according to local policy and procedures.
- h. Engage in ethical billing and practices.
- i. Engage only in legal arrangements in the medical industry.