



European Federation of Periodontology

Code of Conduct

The European Federation of Periodontology (EFP), founded in 1991, is the umbrella organisation for 30 national scientific societies devoted to promoting research, education, and awareness of implant dentistry, periodontal science and practice.

This Code of Conduct (CoC) set outs and explains the principles to be applied by the EFP, its member organisations, and all those involved in supporting the aims and objectives of the Federation.

This CoC, which complements codes of conduct of national societies of periodontology, relevant regulatory and licensing authorities, and related bodies (including national dental associations) was approved, and, from time to time, will be reviewed by the General Assembly of the EFP.

Principles

The following principles are not mutually exclusive; they should be practised collectively to help best realise the aims and objectives of the Federation:

1. Behave professionally and ethically;
2. Communicate effectively;
3. Heighten awareness of contemporary science and practice;
4. Promote excellence in patient-centred, evidence-based care;
5. Champion equality and diversity;
6. Maintain, develop and share knowledge, understanding and skills;
7. Create opportunity for students and trainees to excel;
8. Pursue research capable of advancing knowledge and understanding;
9. Demonstrate and promote leadership;
10. Declare and learn from concerns and failures.

Applying the principles

Ethical and professional behaviour is an underpinning principle across the spectrum of the art and science of healthcare, characterised by an unswerving commitment to excellence. In this unremitting service, organisations and the individuals forming them must always act within the scope of existing knowledge, understanding, and skills, and with honesty and integrity, protecting and ensuring proper use of the resources and assets of the Federation. At all times, professional organisations and the individuals forming them should behave the way they expect to be treated. Behaviours and actions which undermine confidence and trust are unacceptable.

Communication is central to relating to others, being understood, and advancing aims and objectives. Effective communication, which takes many different forms, must be styled according to the message and intended audience. Good communication, complete and free of ambiguity, is fundamental to informed advancement. All communications must be considered, mindful of requirements to maintain confidentiality, and, wherever possible, delivered in ways to enhance mutual understanding and confidence. Many complaints, misunderstandings, and causes for concern stem from poor communication.

Awareness of science and practice helps change attitudes and behaviours and stimulates innovation. Realisation of capabilities and opportunity fosters collaboration and, among other important benefits, facilitates the recruitment and retention of talent. Lack of awareness frustrates the realisation of aims and objectives, undermining purpose and mission. Heightening awareness is invariably rewarded with increased clarity and, in turn, enhanced commonality of purpose. Awareness is empowering and encourages new thinking. As part of the awareness of contemporary scientific thinking, when planning activities and developments consideration should be given to limiting the environmental impact and to measures that promote environmental sustainability.

Excellence in clinical care for the benefit and wellbeing of individuals should be central to all thinking, planning, actions, and behaviours at all levels. The existing and anticipated future healthcare needs and rights of communities and individuals must take priority over organisational, professional, and personal considerations, advancement, and priorities. Excellence in clinical care encompasses the controlled introduction and appropriate applications of innovations in clinical practice and the timely replacement of outdated approaches to management. Patient trust, underpinned by honesty and objectivity in obtaining informed consent, assumes clinical care intended to provide the best possible clinical outcome. The EFP and all those who support the Federation must have unswerving commitment to these principles and aims in order to advance patient care and improve outcomes through the delivery of the EFP strategic plan.

Diversity and equality requires attitudes, behaviours and policies that ensure equal treatment for all on grounds of nationality, age, disability, gender/gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation. All actions, policies, publications, and communications should strive to exemplify excellence in diversity and equality, including leadership in addressing health inequalities.

Knowledge, understanding and skills must be maintained and wherever possible enhanced. Knowledge, understanding and skills, together with best practice should be openly shared in the interests of individuals, the profession and healthcare in general. To achieve effective dissemination, such sharing should be complete, diverse, and free of barriers, borders, and boundaries. Shared knowledge should be evidence-based and understood within its context, and skills should be validated by outcomes. Knowledge is of little value without understanding, and both knowledge and understanding must inform skills.

Education and training, in addition to being contemporary and aimed at making students and trainees fit for future purpose, should be engaging, inspirational, and effective. Reflection, feedback, and peer assessment are fundamental to continuous quality improvement in education and training. Colleagues should be taught, trained, and mentored in ways that satisfy the requirements of contemporary quality assurance. In satisfying aims and objectives, education and training should create opportunity for students and trainees to realise their full potential.

Research should drive advances in knowledge and understanding and, in the clinical environment, extend the evidence base for best clinical practice. The value of research that fails to achieve these goals, or which lacks research power, should be questioned. All research must be ethically justifiable. Research that involves humans and animals must comply with the Declaration of Helsinki (7th revision, 2013), be granted appropriate ethical approval before being started, and should demonstrate equipoise throughout the research design process. Researchers must disseminate their findings, including negative findings, in the interests of (among other considerations) the best use of research resources. Opportunity to pursue research should be viewed as a privilege, with responsibility to enhance knowledge and understanding.

Leadership of organisations, teams, and practices is critical to effective collective and collaborative working. To be effective, leadership must be a two-way process: those being led must respect and trust their leadership, and leaders must respect and trust those they lead. To achieve these goals, arrangements for collective working and dynamics, including communications, interactions, support systems, and common goals must be open, transparent, and subject to continuous quality improvement. The requirements of leadership may change with time and circumstances, with the exceptions of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, and honesty which must remain unquestionable.

Concerns, failures and mistakes are normal.

The airing of concerns must be encouraged, and individuals raising such concerns must be free of any adverse consequences or risks in doing so.

Failures and mistakes must always be promptly admitted, with appropriate remedial actions being instigated at the earliest opportunity possible.

Learning from valid concerns, failures, and mistakes is fundamental to minimising the risk of recurrence.

Conflicts

It is recognised that the EFP and the national societies which form its membership may, from time to time, be faced with conflicting responsibilities and complex situations that necessitate balancing competing responsibilities and priorities. In such situations, conflicts of interest must be declared and collective, objective professional judgement must be

exercised, with the balance of probabilities favouring benefits to the Federation and, in particular, those the EFP exists to serve. Undeclared conflicts that result in improper or fraudulent influence will be considered a serious breach of this CoC.

Dental industry and sponsorship

The EFP promotes and encourages collaborative working and other relationships with the dental industry, publishers, and other commercial organisations in striving to fulfil its aims and objectives. All such working relationships and related activities by the Federation, its members, and those supporting and contributing to Federation affairs must be openly declared, transparent, and suitably documented. Sponsorship from many, different sources and the support of sponsored individuals is vital to the activities, business, and ongoing success of the Federation and its members. All sponsorship and other financial support must be both declared and, in the process, suitably recognised for its contribution to the Federation, especially at times when it may be viewed as a conflict of interest.

Breaches of this CoC, which compromise or bring the EFP into disrepute, may result in remedial sanctions aimed at preserving the reputation, standing, and direction of travel of the Federation. Continuing success in the promotion of research, education and awareness of periodontal science and practice must be treasured and protected.



EFP CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

The European Federation of Periodontology enjoys an excellent reputation in the dental community and with the public. This reputation depends in large measure upon the confidence the members, the dental community, and the public have in its integrity.

In this respect, the attached EFP Code of Conduct (CoC) sets out and explains the principles to be applied by the EFP, its member organisations, and all those involved in supporting the aims and objectives of the Federation.

For this reason, we kindly ask you to read carefully and acknowledge the EFP Code of Conduct and sign the following statement:

I certify that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the EFP Code of Conduct, and for this purpose hereby sign this declaration.

Date:

Place:

Signature

Please return completed form by email to Mónica Guinea, monica@efp.org.

Disclaimer: This policy template is meant to provide general guidelines and should be used as a reference. It may not take into account all relevant local, state or federal laws and is not a legal document. Neither the author nor the EFP will assume any legal liability that may arise from the use of this policy.

