



Code of Ethics

Policy

This policy is applicable to all Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) office bearers, staff, and members and those acting on behalf of SHPA. They are: Board of Directors, members of the Board committees and Reference Groups, Branch office bearers, Specialty Practice Group and Leadership Committee members, SHPA staff, conference organising committees, project Steering Committees and members involved in the planning and delivery of SHPA activities.

SHPA members should be guided by these eight principles.

1. Always hold the best interests of the patient and the wider community as the central focus and avoid harm in any form or manner. All patient services must be provided with courtesy, respect and confidentiality and in line with the [Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights](#)
2. Respect the patient's right to informed consent, to participate in decisions about care and to refuse treatment. Patients must be provided with sufficient, relevant, readily understandable information to allow them to make informed decisions.
3. Maintain professional competence and endeavour at all times to provide a pharmacy service to the highest possible standards in keeping with the mission of the profession, and with the relevant laws, standards, guidelines and codes of practice.
4. Act with honesty and integrity and avoid conflict of interest or situations that may compromise the professional relationship or influence the objectivity of judgments. Do not engage in behaviour or activity likely to bring the profession of pharmacy into disrepute or undermine public confidence.
5. Contribute to the knowledge base of the profession through teaching, research and publication. Pharmacists have a consequent responsibility to provide information and advice about medicines to health professionals, patients and the community. Such information should be based on the principles of the quality use of medicines.
6. Maintain an effective collaborative professional relationship with colleagues and other health professionals, respecting their abilities, opinions and achievements and demonstrating a willingness to provide advice and support.
7. When involved in research, observe the requirements of duly constituted institutional ethics committees, and relevant national and international declarations. Observe intellectual property rights, copyright and due acknowledgment in scientific publication, and openly declare all financial and non-financial interests when reporting scientific findings.
8. Endeavour to avoid discrimination of any type and ensure the fair distribution of medicines and treatment to the best of their ability.

SHPA members should also refer to the Pharmacy Board of Australia's [Code of Conduct](#).



[Document title]

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