

European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS) – Code of Ethics:

Preface

European Federation of Audiology Societies (EFAS) is formed as a federation of national audiology societies in the European countries. The Code of Ethics of the Federation is designed to formalize the standards of professional behaviour for the members of member societies.

The primary goal of the Code is to promote the highest quality of audiological research and patient care. The Code is framed to outline a set of standards that professionals should observe in their clinical and scientific activities. The Code embodies traditional and contemporary ethical standards, is written in relatively broad language, and is designed to be a dynamic instrument that can grow and change in response to future developments in the practice and science of audiology. While ethical principles may not change with time, developments in science, technology, and clinical practice may lead to a change in application of those principles. The Code outlines the standards of professional conduct for EFAS member societies, consisting of national umbrella organisations of a variety of professionals working in the field of Audiology. An EFAS Code of Ethics, therefore, must be general in nature to respond to the interdisciplinary nature of its members, and yet still maintain principles that are dynamic and meaningful to the members, the general public and supporting agencies. Principles and standards reflect professional competence, patient/client-clinician/researcher relationships, conflicts of interest, relationships with other professionals and the public, and research.

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Professional Competence

Members must practice only within their scope of training, experience and competence. Members should engage in the provision of hearing health care and/or research that represents the prevailing standard of practice. Members shall participate in a regular program of continuing professional development.

Member-Patient/Client Relationship

The member-patient/client relationship forms the foundation for audiological care. Client refers to patients in all forms of clinical settings and/or subjects in all forms of research. Members who engage in clinical practice and scientific research must hold paramount the welfare of the patient/client and provide a safe and evidence based practice. The member shall treat clients with respect, honesty and conscientiousness. The member shall not abuse or exploit the patient/client psychologically, sexually, physically or financially. The member shall maintain patient/client privacy and confidentiality.

Conflict of Interest

A member is entitled to reasonable compensation for services to or on behalf of patients/clients. A member must avoid practices and financial arrangements that would solely, because of personal gain, influence decisions in the care of patients/clients.

A member should receive compensation only for services actually rendered, and not receive a fee for making a referral or receive a direct commission for an item or service provided to a patient/client.

Members who make written or oral public statements concerning a product of a company from which they receive compensation, or in which they hold a significant equity position, shall disclose their financial relationship with the company.

Relationships With Other Professionals And the Public

Members shall represent themselves and their credentials to the public in a truthful and honest fashion.

A member shall cooperate and communicate with other health care professionals in order to provide the best care possible to patients/clients.

A member shall refrain from unjustifiable criticism of a colleague's judgment, training, knowledge or skills. A member shall not knowingly ignore professional misconduct or incompetence.

A member shall always hold the principles of the European Federation of Audiology Societies in the highest regard.

Research

A member shall inform subjects in a research project and obtain their informed consent after ethical approval of the study by an unbiased committee. A member shall not bill a patient/client or the insurer for services already compensated by a research study sponsor.

A member shall publish research results truthfully, completely and without distortion. Results of research shall only be widely distributed after the data has been subjected to appropriate review.