



THE LAB MEDICINE SOCIETY OF KENYA

... gather all, scatter none!

THE CODE OF ETHICS, 2023

NAIROBI, KENYA

This is the Code of Ethics of the Lab Medicine Society of Kenya

Code of Ethics

The Lab Medicine Society of Kenya has developed these Code of Ethics in consultation with its members. This Code is excerpted from the appendix to the Constitution of the Lab Medicine Society of Kenya.

The Code serves to define and expand the inherent ethical concepts to document expectations of ethical behaviour for all its members and to provide a framework during professional and personal self-evaluation.

The ethical principles contained herein are not listed in order of priority, but rather, should be considered in relation to each other during their application within situations involving bio-ethical dilemmas.

All members are encouraged to uphold the vision of this Code of Ethics by adhering to the following principles of ethical conduct, as well as the underlying concepts.

1. Safe Practices

- a. Practice only those disciplines within the medical laboratory profession for which KMLTTB certification has been awarded.
- b. Practice only those procedures for which qualification has been achieved or officially delegated by an appropriate institutional authority, where the member has the current requisite knowledge, skills and judgment to ensure and demonstrate competence.
- c. Recognize risk prone situations in order to minimize harm to patients, staff and self.
- d. Utilize professional and institutional mechanisms to intervene when witness to unsafe, incompetent or unethical practices.
- e. Assume responsibility for errors one has committed or observed and take immediate action to prevent or minimize associated harm.
- f. Advocate for working environments that support safe, competent and ethical practices.

2. Confidentiality

- a. Understand and comply with applicable privacy legislation and policies regarding the collection, use and disclosure of confidential information.
- b. Preserve and protect the confidentiality of any information, either medical or personal, acquired through professional contact (in person, through collegial conversations, via medical records etc.) to safeguard patients.
- c. Abstain from using confidential information to the detriment of a patient, or with direct or indirect intent to benefit oneself or another person.
- d. Access information relevant only to the professional task being performed.
- e. Communicate and release information only with written or formal authorization, or where so ordered or expressly authorized by law.

- f. Recognize and disclose conflicts of interest and resolve them in a manner which maintains the integrity of personal health information and protects the best interest of patient care.

3. Professional Development

- a. Reflect on one's fitness to practice and expand one's knowledge, skills, judgments and attitudes through continued professional development.
- b. Contribute to the development of the profession by sharing one's knowledge and experience.
- c. Participate in interprofessional collaborative and educational processes, and the development of partnerships which contribute to positive patient outcomes.
- d. Contribute to the advancement of the profession by:
 - i. improving the body of knowledge,
 - ii. adopting scientific advances that benefit the patient, and
 - iii. maintaining high standards of practice and education.

4. Accountability

- a. Be responsible first to the patient, then to society and the environment for safe and lawful practice and the sustainable use of resources.
- b. Advocate one's role as a leader in the promotion of health and delivery of quality care.
- c. Be responsible for the quality, integrity and reliability of the laboratory services one provides.
- d. Ensure organizational consent processes are followed, including:
 - i. Patients have the right to be informed
 - ii. Patients have the right to refuse or withdraw from procedures

5. Behaviour and Attitude

- a. Provide service with dignity and respect to all, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, age, health status, or mental or physical disability.
- b. Prioritize one's work to ensure that each patient receives optimum care.
- c. Encourage the trust and confidence of the public through high standards of professional competence, conduct and deportment.
- d. Be reasonably accessible within the confines of your duties.
- e. Collaborate with patients, colleagues and other healthcare providers to provide effective patient care.