

ETHICS: CODES AND DILEMMAS

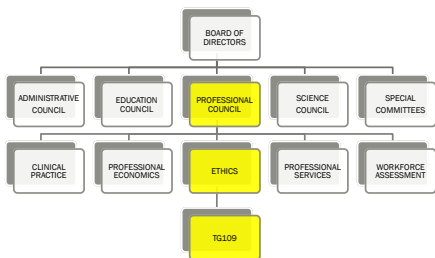
Ethics in medical physics and the role of the AAPM

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Lahey Health
Burlington, MA
AAPM •Nashville • 2018

AAPM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the AAPM is **advancing medicine** through excellence in the **science, education and professional practice** of medical physics





ETHICS IN AAPM GOVERNANCE

Rule 3.7.2: The Committee on Ethics

Purpose

The Committee on Ethics shall advise the Professional Council and, through it, the Board of Directors, on matters relating to the ethical practice of medical physics.

Activities

1. Prepare guidelines on the ethical practice of medical physics.
2. Investigate complaints involving alleged unethical practices of medical physics by or relating to AAPM members.
3. Prepare and maintain procedures for resolving ethical problems.
4. Educate the medical physics community on the ethical principles of professional practice

ETHICS IN AAPM GOVERNANCE

Rule 4.0.2: Ethical Behavior

All applicants for membership and affiliation must attest that they will abide by the AAPM Code of Ethics.

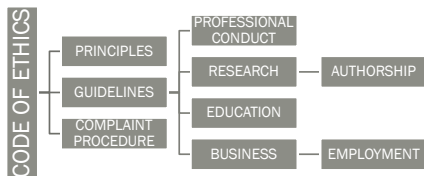
Rule 4.0.3: Termination of membership or affiliation for ethical misconduct

Sanctions specified within the AAPM Code of Ethics (up to and including expulsion from the AAPM) may be imposed for ethical misconduct. Members or affiliates expelled for ethical misconduct may eventually reapply for membership or affiliation as specified in the Code of Ethics.

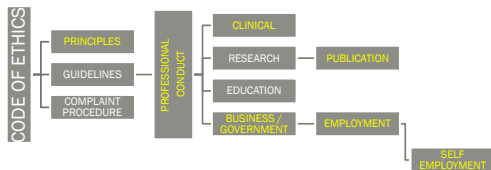
REVISION OF THE AAPM CODE OF ETHICS (PP-24)

- RECONSTITUTION OF TG109
- QUESTIONNAIRE TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
- REDRAFTING
- ETHICS COMMITTEE REVIEW
- PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL & EXCOM REVIEW
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW
- [\[JOURNAL OF\] MEDICAL PHYSICS REVIEW - CURRENT STAGE](#)
- APPROVAL BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS - expected at RSNA 2018
- EXPECTED EFFECTIVE DATE - JANUARY 2019

CURRENT AAPM CODE OF ETHICS (PP-24)



REVISED AAPM CODE OF ETHICS (PP-24)



New set of principles:

- Members must hold as paramount **the best interests of the patient** under all circumstances.
- Members must strive to provide the best quality patient care and **ensure the safety, privacy and confidentiality** of patients and research participants.
- Members must **act with integrity** in all aspects of their work.
- Members must **interact in an open collegial and respectful manner** amongst themselves and in relation to other professionals, including those in training, and safeguard their confidences and privacy.
- Members must **strive to be impartial** in all professional interactions, and must disclose and formally manage any real, potential or plausible conflicts of interest.
- Members must strive to continuously **maintain and improve their knowledge** and skills while encouraging the professional development of their colleagues and of those under their supervision.
- Members must **operate within the limits of their knowledge, skills and available resources** in the provision of healthcare. Members must enable practices in which patients are provided the levels of medical physicist expertise and case-specific attention as appropriately supports the modalities of their care.
- Members must **adhere to the legal and regulatory requirements** that apply to the practice of their profession.
- Members must **support the ideals of justice and fairness** in the provision of healthcare and allocation of limited resources.
- Members are **professionally responsible and accountable for their practice, attitudes and actions** including inactions and omissions.

GUIDELINE: IMPARTIALITY & LACK OF BIAS

■ Editorship and Peer Review

Members acting as editors or reviewers:

- should be aware of potential bias or conflict of interest and strive to deliver an impartial assessment of the work based on merit alone;
- must declare and manage any conflicts of interest that could compromise their objectivity;
- should ensure that the peer review process is objective, fair and confidential;
- are responsible for maintaining the dialogue, and any communication among participants, at a professional and respectful level throughout the review process; and
- must not use the unpublished results to benefit their own work or advancement.

■ Sponsorship of Investigator Research

Members must keep discussions for funding of research separate from discussions for purchase of services or equipment so that there is no real or perceived bias in obtaining research funds or making purchase decisions. Sponsorship of research must be acknowledged and disclosed in presentations and publications.

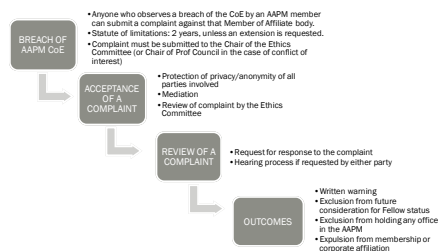
GUIDELINE: JUSTICE & FAIRNESS

■ Responsibility to Public

Members must strive to improve the public welfare through:

- disseminating scientific knowledge in a fair and unbiased manner;
- supporting fair and just allocation of healthcare resources; and
- maintaining standards of privacy and confidentiality in all environments, including online communication.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE



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