

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT
CLINICIANS



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Townsville Day Surgery

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Background

The Professional Code of Conduct - Clinicians of Townsville Day Surgery aims to promote the highest standards of clinical care and serves as the basis for expected appropriate behaviour in the hospital.

The Professional Code:

- reflects the values of Townsville Day Surgery, and all clinicians are expected to be familiar with it and abide by its principles.
- provides guidelines to which clinicians may refer when faced with professional or ethical dilemmas.
- consists of six principles from which the related standards are based.

Townsville Day Surgery supports the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Code of Conduct as adopted by the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Clinicians (RANZCO) Code of Conduct.

The Professional Code of Conduct - Clinicians is consistent with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act of Australia, AMC Code and RACS Code, and is not to be a replacement for these codes.

The Professional Code of Conduct - Clinicians does not replace legal responsibilities associated with Australian or State law.

The Professional Code of Conduct - Clinicians is based on both the RACS Code and the Ethical Code for Clinicians developed by the International Council of Surgery and consists of seven (7) general standards:

Operational Responsibilities whilst working at Townsville Day Surgery.

1. Safety – Patients and Visiting Medical Officers (VMO's)

All Medical Practitioners must ensure they nominate a deputy medical officer in case of emergency.

2. Commitment to Quality, Risk and Safety

Clinicians working at Townsville Day Surgery expected to comply with the Organisational Quality Management Program and commitment to the RiskClear quality management system (QMS). We encourage clinical care to be supported by the mandatory requirements of the Australian Commission of Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH) and the Certification Body – Australian council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS).

Any adverse reactions, incidents or infections arising from the episode of patient care are to be reported to the Nurse Unit Manager (NUM) or Hospital Manager to be included in the mandatory

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reporting for the National Safety and Quality in Health Service Standards (NSQHS) Standard 3 – Healthcare Associated Infections.

It is the responsibility of the treating Doctor to obtain and provide to Townsville Day Surgery, the signed consent form prior to admission.

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1. Patient Care Standards

1.1 General Principle

The clinician will always act in the best interests of the patient.

1.2 Standards

The clinician shall:

- Treat patients with dignity, honesty, and integrity always
- Treat all patients without prejudice based on age, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, insurance status, disability, or lifestyle.
- Treat patients whose conditions are within the scope of their competence (based on training, experience, and credentialing) except in an emergency where alternatives do not exist.
- Ensure privacy of the patient, and maintain confidentiality in all aspects of their care.
- Obtain informed consent for all treatment interventions (including those associated with teaching and research).
- Provide accurate and truthful information to the patient about their state of health.

2. Professional Practice Standards

2.1 General Principle

The clinician ought to ensure that clinical care is of the highest quality possible.

2.2 Standards

The clinician shall:

- Perform only those procedures in which he/she is competent by reason of specific training or experience, or is assisted by one who is.
- Maintain competence in technical ability, cognitive knowledge, and professionalism, keeping abreast of developments in clinical practice.
- Refrain from misrepresentation of credentials, training, experience, or ability.
- Find the best quality care for the patient's condition, including appropriate referrals as required by the condition.
- Maintain accurate records of relevant information about the patient/guest and their state of health.
- Be appropriately dressed to meet the requirements for hygiene and courtesy.
- Respect laws and ethical guidelines on the use of donated human tissue.
- Refrain from or withdraw from engaging in any form of clinical practice that might be compromised by the physician's mental, emotional or physical impairment.

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- Take corrective action when aware that an impaired clinician has not ceased inappropriate behaviour, including notifying the appropriate authorities.
- Adhere to Townsville Day Surgery's Open Disclosure Policy.
- Registered Medical Practitioners with credentials in anaesthetics, remain available in the facility until the patient is fully recovered from anaesthesia and patient's airway is patent and maintained.
- Provide an avenue for the patient to contact them at any time during an appropriate post-operative period should the patient's condition deteriorate, or they have any concerns relating to the procedure or it's aftercare.

3. Professional Community Standards

3.1 General Principle

The clinician should be a responsible member of their professional community by maintaining standards, avoiding conduct that would bring the hospital, community, and their members into disrepute.

3.2 Standards

The clinician shall:

- Treat colleagues and staff with respect.
- Maintain professional dialogue (including sharing of relevant and appropriate information) with colleagues that is in the best interests of the patient/guest and hospital.
- Provide appropriate assistance to colleagues when requested.
- Respect the interests of the referring physician when asked for consultation or second opinion.

4. Research Standards

4.1 General Principle

Clinicians must be conscious of and observe the ethical, legal, and scientific criteria for medical research as outlined by the **National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research** (NHMRC, 2007) and the **Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research** (NHMRC, 2007).

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4.2 Standards

In conducting research, the clinician needs to:

- Always consider the wellbeing of the individual patient, regardless of the nature or importance of the research project.
- Ensure the patient retain the right to withdraw from a research project at any time without prejudice to their treatment.
- Observe appropriate practices and review mechanisms (including obtaining appropriate human ethics approval) for clinical research.
- Inform research subjects of the nature of the investigation, and obtain informed consent.
- Declare any possible conflict of interest (e.g., sponsorship of project, contractual arrangements, consulting roles).
- Not to falsify or misrepresent data, plagiarise the work of others, fail to fairly recognise the contribution of others.
- Report research accurately and appropriately.

5. Education Standards

5.1 General Principle

Clinicians should take an active role in the teaching of other clinicians, trainees, and medical students.

5.2 Standards

The clinician needs to:

- Recognise to their responsibility, by virtue of their position, as supervisors, teachers, and role models.
- Maintain and develop their skills as appropriate to their role and responsibility.

6. Social Standards

6.1 General Principle

The clinician ought to ensure that communications to the public reflect their social responsibilities and reflect the highest level of probity.

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6.2 Standards

The clinician must:

- Communicate accurately with the public.
- Refrain from misrepresentation of credentials, training, experience, or ability.
- Refrain from providing false, deceptive, or misleading information.
- Refrain from providing misleading information through omission, or selective use of relevant materials.
- Refrain from appealing to an individual's anxiety in an unfair way for self-benefit.

7. Commercial Standards

7.1 General Principles

The clinician should ensure that fees for clinical services do not exploit patient or others who pay for the services; that economic and non-economic conflicts of interest do not interfere with the delivery of the highest quality care; and that the advertising of services reflects information and not commercial criteria.

Endorses the Medical Board of Australia ***Medical Guidelines for Advertising of Registered Health Services*** as the minimum Standards applicable to clinicians.

7.2 Standards

The clinician shall:

- Recommend only those tests, devices, drugs, or procedures that advance the best interest of the patient.
- Not withhold necessary care to a patient's detriment and for the clinician's financial advantage.
- Refrain from prescribing unnecessary tests, devices, drugs, or procedures.
- Disclose fees without misrepresentation, including future costs to be incurred as part of treatment.
- Refrain from misrepresenting services, or the charges made for services.
- Refrain from putting patient under duress with payments of accounts immediately prior to surgery.
- Provide quality and enough information about the availability and type of services offered, without competing on a commercial basis.

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Interaction with Medical Industry

Endorses the recommendations by RACS (2017) for *Clinicians and Trainees Interactions with the Medical Industry* (2014).

Interactions with the medical industry must be governed by three main principles:

1. The best interest of the patient(s) must be paramount,
2. There must be transparency in all interactions, including any funding arrangement that may exist, and
3. 'Perception' is an issue that needs to be acknowledged and considered when considering interactions and relationships with industry.

I have read the Clinician Code of Conduct and herewith agree to abide by the Standards and Principles stated herein:

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Please return to Townsville Day Surgery