

LOS ANGELES COUNTY PREHOSPITAL CODE OF ETHICS

Our EMS Community consists of a team of health care professionals including EMT-Is, paramedics, nurses, physicians, and system educators and administrators. This Code defines our ethical responsibilities and can be beneficial in guiding our practice. With regard to the following patient-oriented domains...

We believe that...

Patient Care & Patient Rights

competent medical care must be provided with compassion and regard for human dignity to all persons.

we cannot allow financial considerations to influence professional judgment or quality of care.

patients have the right to determine what shall be done to their body and to receive or refuse medical service, except where the patient is unable (incompetent) to make such determination.

patients (or legal representatives) need to be advised of the consequences of a refusal for treatment or transportation.

Accountability & Confidentiality

we are accountable for providing medical care to the best of our ability and for accurately and completely documenting all patient care.

in all matters pertaining to patient information and medical care, confidentiality and privacy must be respected, except where transmitting such information is necessary to deliver appropriate patient care.

Honesty & Truthfulness

patients and colleagues must be dealt with in an honest and truthful manner.

it is dishonorable to participate in or cover up misconduct of a colleague and it is also wrong to harass anyone who discloses information about situations potentially harmful to the public.

Professionalism

the highest standard of professional conduct must be maintained when providing medical care.

the hallmark of the professional is the willingness to do more than is required.

for the benefit of the patient, members of the health care team must willingly cooperate and respect each other.

colleagues lacking competence should not be misguidedly protected, but offered the opportunity for remedial action.

support of prehospital care research is important to validate our practice and to promote professional growth.

Respect & Equality

regardless of nationality, race, creed, religion, sex, or status, medical services must be delivered with compassion and respect for human dignity.

Ethical Decision Making & Conflicts of Interest

we must refuse to participate in unethical activities or procedures that exceed our scope of practice.

personal interests, such as economic gain, recognition, power, or promotion must not influence our provision of patient care.

Education & Competence

competence in all areas of our certification or licensure is our responsibility and is accomplished through education and training, skill practice and maintenance, and continuing education.

all requirements of educational programs leading to certification or licensure must be followed.

we must refrain from activities which may impair our professional judgment and ability to act competently.

Societal Obligation & Law of Practice

knowledge of prehospital care regulations and policies is necessary for optimal patient care.

we have a responsibility to contribute to an improved community.

Citizenship

our EMS system, organization, supervisors, peers, and subordinates deserve our utmost loyalty.

we must be loyal to the Constitution and the Government, and obey and respect the law.

where conflicts of interest arise, the ultimate obligation is to the public that we serve.

Commitment

we must desire to accomplish our job in a competent manner with dedication to patient care.

commitment stems from the desire to be the best one can possibly be, and the affirmation of all the preceding elements of this code.