



AfPP Voluntary Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Practitioners Working in Advancing Perioperative Roles

The purpose of this code is to establish clear standards of conduct expected of registered practitioners working in advancing perioperative roles, including those of the scrub practitioner working in a dual role in minor surgery, surgical first assistant and surgical care practitioner.

This voluntary code should be adhered to in addition to the codes of standards, ethics and performance of your regulatory body.

You should at all times:

- 1) Promote and protect the interests and dignity of patients and clients within your care, regardless of age, religious beliefs, ethnicity, sexuality and socio-political and economic status.
- 2) Adhere to national and local policy regarding confidentiality.
- 3) Adhere to the standards of record keeping mandated by your regulatory body and ensure that you keep up to date role specific records.
- 4) Obtain consent before giving any treatment, surgical intervention or episode of care, according to national and local guidelines.
- 5) Demonstrate that your knowledge and skills are current and applicable to your role, with any training needs clearly identified in your individual performance review
- 6) Maintain your competence in any role-specific skill, including manual dexterity.
- 7) Ensure continuing competence within your specialty and keep abreast of new technology.

- 8) Acknowledge limitations and work within your professional scope of practice.
- 9) Work within a clinical governance framework that includes risk assessment, guidelines and policies.
- 10) Communicate effectively with all members of the perioperative team.
- 11) Establish patient/carer relationships that demonstrate transparency regarding your role.
- 12) Recognise responsibilities in the delegation of duties.
- 13) Act at all times to identify and minimise risk to patients/staff and visitors.
- 14) Understand the legal, ethical, professional and employment issues which relate to your role.
- 15) Be personally accountable for clinical practice regardless of instruction and delegation from another healthcare professional.
- 16) Uphold the reputation of your profession.
- 17) Recognise the importance of regular role evaluation. Undertake audit or research to evaluate your role or service.
- 18) Inform the necessary person or authority of any conscientious objection, which may affect professional practice.

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