



## CODE OF ETHICS

The code of ethics of the Irish Association of Clinical Scientists (IACS) sets the principles and standards by which Clinical Scientists and Associate Clinical Scientists practice their profession. Members of the IACS must agree to abide by the following code of ethics, which defines an ongoing commitment to continuing education, quality, standards, integrity, morality, and accountability. It aims to provide the highest standards in service to the general public, clinical colleagues and employers.

### I. **Duty to the Patient**

- The Clinical Scientist will place the welfare of the patient first, ensuring the patient receives the highest quality of care according to current standards or practise.
- The Clinical Scientist will maintain strict confidentiality of patient information and test results
- The Clinical Scientist will apply his/her scientific knowledge and skill in analytical techniques to diagnose and clinically interpret results. They will also provide advice and guidance on the selecting the correct test for the clinical information provided, reporting and clinical interpretation
- The Clinical Scientist will employ only those procedures that conform to acceptable quality standards or whose limitations are known and are clearly identifies to the recipient of the result. He/She will promote and actively participate in external quality assessment programmes and internal clinical audits.
- The Clinical Scientist will respect patients' rights to make decisions regarding their own medical care
- The Clinical Scientist will prevent and avoid conflicts of interest that undermine the best interest of patients.
- The Clinical Scientist will adhere to international best practise and local guidelines for analysis, reporting and interpretation of patient results.
- The Clinical Scientist will comply with all current legislation and local guidelines pertaining to the practise of Clinical Science such as confidentiality, patient data gathering/storage, and safe handling and disposal of hazardous or toxic material.

### II. **Duty to the Profession and Colleagues**

- The Clinical Scientist will uphold the dignity and respect of the profession and maintain a reputation of honesty, integrity, competence and reliability
- The Clinical Scientist will accept responsibility for the quality and integrity of the services they provide.
- The Clinical Scientist are responsible for maintaining their individual competence while ensuring they are practising within the limits of their level of competence; above this level he/she will consult with or refer to appropriate experts.
- The Clinical Scientist will take reasonable care for his/her own care and welfare and that of any other person who may be affected by their acts or omissions while at work; he/she will support his/her employer to comply with statutory provisions and co-operate in measures intended to secure safety, health and welfare at work.

- The Clinical Scientist has a duty to behave respectfully towards all staff in the workplace, including students, interns and contractors; he/she must avoid any form of sexual harassment, bullying or undermining of colleagues, particularly when in a position of authority or trust, for example as a supervisor for a trainee, or have direct management responsibility for a colleague.
- The Clinical Scientist will display commitment to his or her profession by actively engaging in continued professional development (i.e maintaining awareness of recent developments in his/her field and attending appropriate meetings and training courses) and contributing to the training of others. They will encourage and support such activities for other staff members under his/her supervision.