**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

Practising as a healthcare professional is based upon a relationship of mutual trust between patients and healthcare practitioners. The term “profession” means “a dedication, promise or commitment publicly made”.1 To be a good healthcare practitioner, requires a life-long commitment to sound professional and ethical practices and an overriding dedication to the interests of one’s fellow human beings and society. In essence, practising as a healthcare professional is a moral enterprise. In this spirit, the HPCSA presents the following ethical policy guidelines to guide and direct the practice of healthcare practitioners. These guidelines form an integral part of the standards of professional conduct against which a complaint of professional misconduct will be evaluated.

[**Ethical rules of conduct**](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/rules/generic_ethical_rules/generic_ethical_rules.pdf)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Booklet 1: Guidelines good practice](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%201.pdf) | Duties to all stakeholders |
| [Booklet 2: Generic Ethical Rules with annexure 1 - 11. Annexure 12](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%202.pdf) | Ethical considerations |
| [Booklet 3: Patients' Rights Charter](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%203%20.pdf) | Patients’ rights and responsibilities |
| [Booklet 4: Informed Consent](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/ethical_rules/Booklet%204%20Informed%20Consent%20September%20%202016.pdf) | Guidelines on obtaining informed consent |
| [Booklet 5: Confidentiality Protecting and Providing Information](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%205.pdf) | Protecting and securing information obtained from patients and others |
| [Booklet 6: Gen Ethical Guidelines for management of Patients with HIV](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/ethical_rules/Booklet%206%20Gen.pdf) | Ethics specifically wrt HIV |
| [Booklet 7: Guidelines withholding and withdrawing treatment](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%207.pdf) | Treatment guidelines |
| [Booklet 8: Reproductive Health](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%208%20.pdf) | Sexual questions |
| [Booklet 9: Keeping of Patients Records](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%209.pdf) | Keeping records |
| [Booklet 10: Telemedicine](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2010.pdf) | Delivering healthcare at a distance |
| [Booklet 11: Guidelines on over servicing perverse incentives and related matters](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2010.pdf) | Financial concerns |
| [Booklet 12: Guidelines for the management of health care waste](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2012.pdf) | Dealing with health-related waste material |
| [Booklet 13: Gen Ethical Guidelines for Health Researchers](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2013.pdf) | IMPORTANT – RELATES DIRECTLY TO RESEARCH |
| [Booklet 14: Biotechnology Research in SA](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2014.pdf) | Biotechnology is a broad term for a wide range of technologies which use living organisms, biochemistries or synthetic DNA to make or modify products, improve plants or animals, or develop micro-organisms for specific uses. |
| [Booklet 15: Research Development and use of Chemical and Biological Weapons](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/conduct_ethics/Booklet%2015%20%20.pdf) | Chemical and biological weapon research |
| [Business Practice](http://www.hpcsa.co.za/Uploads/editor/UserFiles/downloads/committees/Policy_on_Business_Practices_final%20-%202016.pdf) | Business practices |