

J. College of American Pathologists Principles of Ethical and Professional Conduct

Preamble

Members of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) strive to promote patient care and to practice in an ethical fashion. The CAP offers these Principles to assist its members in addressing ethical issues.

Principles

1. A pathologist shall maintain a practice of compassion, human dignity, and respect toward patients, colleagues, and other health care professionals.
2. A pathologist shall place the interests of the patient foremost.
3. A pathologist shall be committed to the achievement and maintenance of professional education and competence.
4. A pathologist shall strive to report any physician or health care professional who engages in fraud or deception or whose deficiency in character or competence jeopardizes patient care or other personnel.
5. A pathologist shall provide timely reports and seek consultation when appropriate.
6. A pathologist shall keep confidential any medical and personal information entrusted to him/her unless authorized by the patient or required by law.
7. A pathologist shall be honest in all professional interactions, strive to avoid conflicts of interest, and not participate in exploitive financial relationships.
8. A pathologist shall recognize a professional responsibility to contribute to community improvements, the betterment of public health, and access to medical care for all people.
9. A pathologist shall respect the law.

The CAP is committed to providing guidance on how these Principles might be applied in specific circumstances.

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