



# Code of Ethics

for  
Paramedicine



# Introduction

This Code of Ethics (the Code) is established in pursuant to section 133 of the *Health Professions Act* (HPA) as a set of principles of professional conduct, which guides all paramedics and establishes the expectations for fulfilling their ethical duties to patients, the public, the profession and society as a whole.

While the Code, by its very nature cannot be a complete articulation of all ethical obligations, it does affirm and clarify principles that are definitive to professional and ethical care. The Code identifies the basic moral and ethical commitments of the paramedic profession and will serve as a source for education and reflection.

In resolving ethical issues, members must consider all applicable laws, the Code and other applicable ethical principles, and the patient's needs and interests. For those within the profession, the Code provides direction for ethical practice; and in so doing, it also serves as a basis for self-evaluation.

For those outside the profession, the Code provides public identification of the profession's ethical expectations of its members. The Code guides paramedic behaviour and expresses to the larger community the values and ideals that are championed by the paramedic profession by reason of public trust and commitment to this trust.

## Enforceability

The Code is an important part of the way in which the Alberta College of Paramedics fulfills its obligation to promote and protect the public interest. The Code that follows sets forth the ethical duties that, along with the Standards of Practice, are binding on paramedics. Violations of this Code may result in disciplinary action.

Any public individual who believes a paramedic has acted unethically or in an unskilled manner may bring the matter to the attention of the Complaints Director, to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the HPA.

## Responsibility to the Patient and Others

### Paramedics demonstrate person-centred care by:

1. Practising patience, compassion and courtesy.
2. Advocating in the best interest of the patient.
3. Acting in a manner that ensures the patient's dignity, safety, privacy, confidentiality and decision-making are maintained.
4. Working collaboratively within a patient and family-centred health care team.
5. Communicating respectfully with others.
6. Maintaining appropriate professional relationship boundaries.
7. Respecting the rights of the patient and others.

## Responsibility to the Profession

### Paramedics demonstrate professional conduct by:

1. Practising in accordance with the Standards of Practice.
2. Promoting and upholding the code of ethical standards of the profession.
3. Fostering professional working relationships.
4. Creating respectful and positive learning environments.
5. Providing leadership and mentorship to others.
6. Learning, sharing and creating knowledge.
7. Recognizing professional limitations.
8. Consulting with others for the benefit of the patient.
9. Reporting and, when necessary, stopping any unethical or incompetent conduct.

## Responsibility to Self

### Paramedics maintain high standards of professional integrity by:

1. Recognizing that self-regulation of the profession is a privilege.
2. Maintaining mental and physical fitness to practise.
3. Maintaining clinical proficiency to practise.
4. Maintaining good character and reputation.
5. Maintaining professional accountability for actions in practice.
6. Using peer review to evaluate, reflect upon and guide ongoing education.
7. Crediting work done by others.
8. Fostering a professional identity at work.
9. Managing conflict and maintaining impartiality.
10. Exhibiting conduct that always meets the requirements of the medical, legal and professional boundaries of the profession.
11. Self-reporting any deviation from the Code of Ethics or Standards of Practice.

## Responsibility to Society

### Paramedics demonstrate service to society by:

1. Committing to action that prioritizes the health and safety of the public.
2. Incorporating the social determinants of health in the provision of care.
3. Serving society through the continued development of the paramedicine profession.
4. Fostering innovative provision of care for the direct benefit of society.
5. Developing health education strategies to maximize health choices made by society.