American Association for Respiratory Therapy

Code of Ethics

As Allied Health professionals engaged in the performance of Respiratory Therapy, we realize we must individually and collectively strive to maintain the highest obtainable level of ethical standards.

The principles set forth define the ethical and moral standards to which each member of the American Association for Respiratory Therapy should conform. This Code of Ethics shall be subject to monitoring, interpretation, and timely revision by the Association's Board of Directors, with the advice of the Board of Medical Advisors.

Each member of this Association shall conduct himself in such a manner as to gain the respect and confidence of other Health Care personnel, as well as respecting the human dignity of each of his superiors, subordinates, and other associates.

Each member shall be responsible for the competent and efficient execution of his assigned duties, being guided at all times by his concern for the welfare of the patient.

Each member shall be familiar with, and comply with existing state and/or federal laws governing the practice of Respiratory Therapy.

Each member shall keep in confidence any and all privileged information concerning the patient. Inquiries regarding the dissemination of privileged personal or clinical information pertaining to the patient by persons other than those members of the Health Care team who are responsible for the care of the patient, shall be referred to the physician in charge of the patient's medical care.

No member shall endeavor to extend his province beyond his competence and the authority invested to him by a physician.

No member shall accept gratuities in the form of bribes or tips for preferential consideration of the patient, or to supplement professional income. The member must carefully guard against conflicts of professional interest.

Each member shall accept responsibility for exposing incompetence and illegal or unethical conduct to the proper authorities and/or the Judicial Committee of this Association. Only through the integrity of each member can the highest purpose of the profession be served.

Each member shall adhere to the Bylaws of the Association and support the objectives and purposes contained therein.