

CODE OF ETHICS FOR BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS



Suomen Bioanalyttikoliitto ry
Finlands Bioanalytikerförbund rf
Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists in Finland

Principles of Health Care Ethics

1. Right to good care

A right to good care also involves a right to receive trustworthy laboratory examination results without unreasonable delays. In order to create good service, circumstances should be such that they contribute to making the patient/customer feel they are in safe and professional hands and will be treated well.

2. Respect for human dignity

Everyone has an equal right to individual and personal human dignity.

3. Right of self-determination

The patient/customer has full rights to be involved in all decision pertaining to their treatment and is to be informed and guided in a way fully understandable to them.

4. Equal treatment

A right to reliable laboratory services and dignified treatment without regard for age, place of residence, social status, native language, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic, cultural or religious background.

5. Good professional skills and an atmosphere conducive to wellbeing

The right and duty of every biomedical laboratory scientist is to keep up and cultivate their professional skills. Each member of the working community is responsible for the wellbeing of themselves and others.

6. Cooperation and mutual appreciation

närmare <http://etene.fi/julkaisut/2001>

Ethical Principles in Biomedical Laboratory Science

1. Duties to the Patient/Customer

The patient's/customer's welfare and respect for his/her rights are the primary objectives in all stages of the laboratory examination process involving biomedical laboratory scientists [1].

As health care professionals, the biomedical laboratory scientists are obligated to maintain and develop the knowledge and skills required in practising the profession. The biomedical laboratory scientists shall adopt new scientifically justified methods and procedures. They will get acquainted with the relevant professional regulations, standards, recommendations and follow them [2].

The biomedical laboratory scientists shall commit themselves to maintaining strict confidentiality [2]. Only the essential information required for sampling and laboratory tests should be collected, nothing else. The patients are entitled to be informed of what grounds the information asked them during the sample taking or examination is required [1].

The biomedical laboratory scientists respect the patients' self-determination: all examinations requires the permission of the patients. The patients also have the right to refuse any or all examinations [1].

The biomedical laboratory scientists use approved methods and are responsible

for the quality and reliability of the laboratory tests in all the stages of laboratory testing. If some criteria do not match the requirements set for the examination occur during the sampling, transportation, storage, handling or analysing of the sample, the sampling/laboratory test will be renewed and the person requesting for the laboratory test will be informed [1].

The biomedical laboratory scientists handle all biological sample material with respect to the privacy and rights of the sample donors.

The biomedical laboratory scientists are responsible for their actions, are aware of the limits of their knowledge and inform the person responsible for the care of the patient/customer of all findings that might be relevant concerning the care of the patient/customer.

The biomedical laboratory scientists shall always provide help to those in need of urgent care [2].

2. Duties to the Professional community

The biomedical laboratory scientists strive to maintain the confidence in, and respect for, the profession by their actions and behaviour. They take responsibility for developing the profession and its education.

The biomedical laboratory scientist actively seeks to establish and maintain the good co-operative working relations with other health care professionals. They know the limits of their knowledge and respect the know-how of their colleagues and other occupational groups. Biomedical laboratory scientists working in the same work community are responsible for ensuring that the quality of the laboratory process is high and constantly improving.

The biomedical laboratory scientists will provide their professional help, guide and advise other professionals in questions related to laboratory tests.

3. Duties to Society

Biomedical laboratory scientists strive to promote the health of an individual, the population and a living environment as a responsible specialist [3].

The basics of the instructions are:

1. International Standard EN ISO 15189. Medical laboratories – Particular requirements for quality and competence.
2. Act on health care professionals 559/1994
3. Act on revising the national health law 928/2005 (unofficial translations)

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