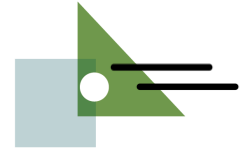


ESTRO Radiation Therapist Code of Ethics and Conduct

ESTRO RTT Committee

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ESTRO



Foreword

ESTRO is a leader in the field of radiotherapy and is responsible for setting and maintaining education standards for Radiation Therapists and for promoting the safety and quality of radiation therapy for all cancer patients. This ESTRO Radiation Therapist Code of Ethics and Conduct provides a framework to assist all Radiation Therapists to carry out his/her duties and responsibilities and to aid in professional decision-making.

The purpose of this Code is to promote and maintain high voluntary standards of professional conduct and ethics in order to ensure the safety and quality of radiotherapy treatment and enhance the international reputation of the Radiation Therapist's profession.

This Code provides guidance on the professional and public expectations of the behaviour of Radiation Therapists engaged in the practice of radiotherapy, which includes: direct practice, management, research, education, industry as well as being applicable to student Radiation Therapists.

The code consists of eleven core ethical principles and fourteen guiding principles of conduct (followed in the majority of cases, specific indicators that assist in interpreting the principles) for good practice.

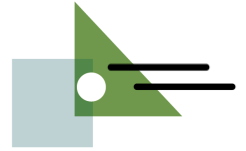


Core Ethical Principles for Good Practice

The Radiation Therapist must advocate for and demonstrate ethical principles in clinical practice and research, at all times. Listed below are the core ethical principles for good practice. In the daily practice of an Radiation Therapist, these core principles may conflict, this conflict should be addressed through ethical reasoning.

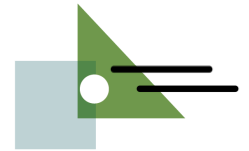
The core ethical principles required of an Radiation Therapist include the following:

1. **Respect:** The Radiation Therapist should respect patients as persons.
2. **Dignity:** The Radiation Therapist should treat all persons with dignity.
3. **Best interests:** The Radiation Therapist should act in the best interests of patients even when their interests conflict with their own .
4. **Human rights:** The Radiation Therapist should recognise and respect the human rights of all persons.
5. **Patient Autonomy:** The Radiation Therapist should honour the right of patients to make informed choices and to behave in line with their own beliefs and values.
6. **Truthfulness:** The Radiation Therapist should act truthfully in their dealings with patients.
7. **Compassion:** The Radiation Therapist should empathise and be sensitive to, and with, patients and provide comfort and support, where appropriate.
8. **Tolerance:** The Radiation Therapist should respect the rights of patients to have different beliefs and values.
9. **Justice:** The Radiation Therapist should treat all individuals in an impartial, fair and just manner.
10. **Community:** The Radiation Therapist should strive to contribute to society in line with their professional abilities and standing in the community.
11. **Integrity:** The Radiation Therapist should incorporate these core ethical principles as the basis for their character and practice.



Guiding Principles of Good Conduct

1. The Radiation Therapist must act in the best interest of the patient at all times.
2. The Radiation Therapist should advocate for patients within their role.
3. The Radiation Therapist must respect patient confidentiality at all times.
4. The Radiation Therapist must perform their duties to the best of their ability.
5. The Radiation Therapist must work within a safety aware environment.
6. The Radiation Therapist must uphold standards of the utmost personal and professional integrity and conduct.
7. The Radiation Therapist must be professionally and personally accountable for their actions both to the patient and profession.
8. The Radiation Therapist must adhere to the laws and regulations of the governing country.
9. The Radiation Therapist must ensure informed consent is obtained prior to carrying out any procedure.
10. The Radiation Therapist must act within their scope of practice at all times.
11. The Radiation Therapist must keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date.
12. The Radiation Therapist must communicate effectively with patients, families, care givers and other professionals.
13. The Radiation Therapist must maintain accurate reports and documentation at all times.
14. The Radiation Therapist must advocate for and demonstrate ethical conduct in practice and research at all times.



Guiding Principle

1. The Radiation Therapist must act in the best interest of the patient at all times.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must ensure that they uphold and protect the best interest of the patient in all their duties.
- The Radiation Therapist should respect patients' right to make their own informed decisions and respect these decisions. The Radiation Therapist must appreciate that every patient is unique and not discriminate between patients based on sex, age, colour, race, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, social or economic status, lifestyle, culture, religion, beliefs or values.
- The Radiation Therapist must work within a collaborative relationship with other professionals to ensure best care is provided to the patient.

Guiding Principle

2. The Radiation Therapist should act as a patient advocate within their role.

Specific Indicators

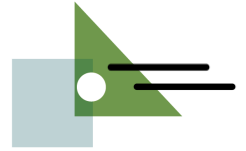
- The Radiation Therapist should support and promote the needs of the patient and their role in the treatment process at all times.
- The Radiation Therapist should act on behalf of patients to ensure their well-being, interests and safety are promoted.
- The Radiation Therapist should ensure that the patient is not placed at risk by any known action or omission on their part.

Guiding Principle

3. The Radiation Therapist must respect patient confidentiality at all times.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must treat information relating to or about a patient as confidential and use it only for the purposes for which it was given.



- The Radiation Therapist must not knowingly share confidential or private information relating to patients, or their treatments to those who are not entitled to this information, including but not limited to sharing via social media.

Guiding Principle

4. The Radiation Therapist must perform their duties to the best of their ability.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist should perform their duties following the principles of evidence based practice

Guiding Principle

5. The Radiation Therapist must work within a safety aware environment.

Specific Indicators

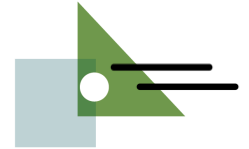
- The Radiation Therapist has a responsibility to ensure a safe environment is maintained for staff, patients and visitors to the department.
- The Radiation Therapist must incorporate risk management principles into clinical practice in order to minimise risk.
- The Radiation Therapist must conduct all procedures within current safety and radiation standards (departmental, national and/or international, as appropriate).

Guiding Principle

6. The Radiation Therapist must uphold standards of the utmost personal and professional integrity and conduct.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must act with honesty, integrity and dignity at all times.
- The Radiation Therapist must ensure their appearance is professional at all times. This includes hygienic and professional attire appropriate to the clinical environment, according to standards of medical dress code.



- The Radiation Therapist must act as a morally autonomous member of the multidisciplinary team.
- The Radiation Therapist must not discriminate against patients, care-givers or colleagues in any way.
- The Radiation Therapist must act in a manner that upholds and enhances the reputation of radiation therapy.
- The Radiation Therapist should be aware that poor conduct in their professional and personal lives may affect patients and carer-givers' confidence in them and their profession.

Guiding Principle

7. The Radiation Therapist must be professionally and personally accountable for their actions both to the patient and profession.

Specific Indicators

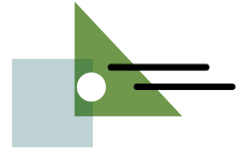
- The Radiation Therapist should perform their duties to the best of their ability.
- The Radiation Therapist must take responsibility for their professional actions or inactions.
- The Radiation Therapist is morally accountable for their professional actions and for any negligence, whether by act, omission or injury.

Guiding Principle

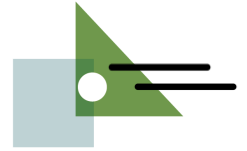
8. The Radiation Therapist must adhere to the laws and regulations of the governing country.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must obey the laws of the country in which they live and work in their professional practice.
- The Radiation Therapist must comply with the validation and registration processes of the profession within their given jurisdiction.
- The Radiation Therapist has a legal obligation to provide a safe clinical service delivery to patients.
- The Radiation Therapist must be aware of national and international legislation relating to patient safety, ionising radiation and regulations pertaining to reporting of incidents and near misses and keep up-to-date with any changes in such legislation or regulations.
- The Radiation Therapist is legally accountable for their professional actions, as bound by the laws of their jurisdiction; and for any negligence, whether by act, omission or injury.



- The Radiation Therapist must adhere to their national child protection and other laws concerning vulnerable persons at all times.



Guiding Principle

9. The Radiation Therapist must ensure consent is obtained prior to carrying any procedure.

Specific Indicators

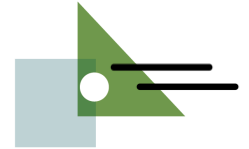
- The Radiation Therapist must adhere to their employer's procedures on informed consent and any guidance issued by appropriate authorities.
- The Radiation Therapist must ensure that informed consent has been obtained from the patient, guardian or person with power of attorney for children/minors/incapacitated patients, as appropriate, prior to treatment.
- The Radiation Therapist must respect the patient's right to refuse or withdraw consent at any stage.

Guiding Principle

10. The Radiation Therapist must act within their scope of practice at all times.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must carry out their duties and responsibilities in a professional and ethical way at all times.
- The Radiation Therapist must only practice in the areas of radiation therapy where they have appropriate education and competence to ensure that their practice benefits and does not harm the patient or other persons.
- If presented with a clinical situation that is beyond their scope of practice, the Radiation Therapist should recognize this and seek intervention from an appropriately qualified colleague.
- The Radiation Therapist must answer patient questions fully and honestly within the limits of their knowledge and scope of practice.
- The Radiation Therapist must know their proficiency and actively seeks assistance and consult with colleagues or other professionals if needed.



Guiding Principle

11. The Radiation Therapist must keep their professional knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Specific Indicators

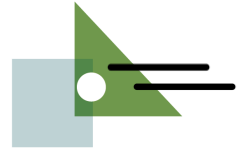
- The Radiation Therapist is obliged to maintain continuing professional development (CPD) records as required by their national regulator's registration board.
- The Radiation Therapist should participate in continuing professional development to ensure that their skills are underpinned by the most current evidence-based practice.
- The Radiation Therapist should avail of all opportunities to promote the development of their profession.
- The Radiation Therapist must assist in the professional development of colleagues and students.
- The Radiation Therapist should take part in educational practice in the field of radiation therapy and where possible, actively take part in the education and training of student Radiation Therapists.

Guiding Principle

12. The Radiation Therapist must communicate effectively with patients, families, care givers and other professionals.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist should use their knowledge on effective communication skills and select the appropriate communication technique for each clinical situation.
- The Radiation Therapist must ensure that their communication with the patients and families is performed effectively, knowing when and where to seek support if barriers impede successful mutual understanding.
- The Radiation Therapist must communicate with patients sensitively and with respect to their privacy.
- The Radiation Therapist must actively take part in multi-professional and multi-disciplinary teams and ensure information on patients is communicated to other professionals and care givers, as appropriate.



Guiding Principle

13. The Radiation Therapist must maintain accurate reports and documentation at all times.

Specific Indicators

- The Radiation Therapist must take responsibility to ensure that the tasks performed are documented accurately and with accountability.
- The Radiation Therapist must ensure that their reports are available for other professionals in case of clinical necessity.
- The Radiation Therapist should ensure reports follow the current regulations on reporting radiation doses.
- The Radiation Therapist should ensure that reports are kept filed according to the applicable law.
- The Radiation Therapist must comply with an appropriate system for the reporting of clinical incidents/near misses/ adverse error events

Guiding Principle

14. The Radiation Therapist must advocate for and demonstrate ethical conduct in practice and research at all times.

