



Paramedic Association of Canada
Association des paramédics du Canada

Canadian Paramedic Profile

Code of Ethics

Board of Directors' approval for consultation
2016 September 24

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Overview

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to promote, guide, and direct professional paramedic practice.

The Code of Ethics is an integral part of the Canadian Paramedic Profile, which includes the Paramedic Roles and the Standards of Practice guidelines. All paramedics are expected to adopt this Code of Ethics in conjunction with the Paramedic Roles and the Standards of Practice to understand the expectations inherent to a paramedic. The Code of Ethics applies to all paramedics across clinical, education, evaluation, research, management, and operational settings.

The Code of Ethics provides the guideline through which the public can judge professional practice. The Code of Ethics lists, defines, and describes the values of the paramedic and provides guidance for how these values are to be enacted. These statements are intended to provide a guide that enables paramedics to make appropriate decisions and to understand what actions to take when exercising professional judgment as part of their duty.

Each paramedic has the responsibility to adhere to the Code of Ethics upon entering the paramedicine profession. Paramedics are accountable to behave ethically. As health and public safety professionals, paramedics are expected to apply these values in professional practice and, where it has an impact on professional practice, in life.

Paramedics have a responsibility to the *patient and others*, to the *profession*, to *self*, and to *society*.



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Responsibility to the Patient and Others

A paramedic provides person-centred care:

1. Demonstrating 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, and privacy
4. Maintaining confidentiality
5. Working collaboratively with others
6. Communicating respectfully with others
7. Maintaining appropriate professional relationships
8. Respecting the rights of the patient and others

Responsibility to the Profession

A paramedic demonstrates professional conduct:

1. Practicing in accordance with the Standards of Practice
2. Promoting and upholding the Code of Ethics of the profession
3. Fostering professional working relationships
4. Creating a respectful and positive learning environment
5. Providing leadership to others
6. Learning, sharing, and constructing knowledge
7. Recognizing professional limitations
8. Consulting with others for the benefit of the patient
9. Reporting, stopping, or redirecting unethical or incompetent conduct
10. Refraining from impugning the reputation of peers and the profession



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Responsibility to Self

A paramedic maintains a high standard of professional integrity:

1. Recognizing that self-regulation of the profession is a privilege
2. Maintaining mental and physical fitness to practice and clinical proficiency
3. Maintaining good character and reputation
4. Maintaining professional accountability for actions in practice
5. Utilizing peer review to reflect, evaluate, and self-direct professional development
6. Crediting work done by others
7. Fostering a professional identity at work
8. Recognizing conflicts of interest and maintaining impartiality
9. Being accountable for conduct that meets the requirement of the medical, legal, and professional boundaries of the profession

Responsibility to Society

A paramedic demonstrates service to society:

1. Prioritizing the public interest
2. Recognizing the social determinants of health in practice
3. Committing to improving society through the development of the profession
4. Fostering innovative care for the benefit of society
5. Ensuring professional development aligns with public interest

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