

ITI Code of Conduct: Excellence in Implant Dentistry

(Version September 2025)

1. Our Foundation: Patient-Centered Excellence

Every decision we make, every collaboration we pursue, and every innovation we advance serves one ultimate purpose: improving the lives of patients who depend on implant dentistry. This patient-centered foundation guides everything we do at the ITI.

When we elevate the science, we elevate the care. When we maintain ethical standards, we protect patient trust. When we collaborate transparently, we accelerate progress that benefits everyone who needs implant treatment.

2. The ITI Commitment

As members of the ITI community, we commit to three fundamental principles that define our approach to professional excellence:

Scientific Integrity: We base our work on rigorous evidence, acknowledge limitations honestly, and share knowledge openly to advance the field.

Professional Responsibility: We maintain the highest standards of competence, continue learning throughout our careers, and take accountability for our contributions to implant dentistry.

Collaborative Excellence: We work together across disciplines, cultures, and institutions to solve complex challenges and improve patient outcomes globally.

3. Our Professional Standards

3.1. Evidence-Based Practice

We ground our recommendations, treatments, and research in the best available scientific evidence. When evidence is limited or conflicting, we acknowledge uncertainty clearly and avoid overstating conclusions. We distinguish between proven therapies and emerging techniques, ensuring patients and colleagues understand the level of evidence supporting our recommendations.

3.2. Continuous Learning and Development

The field of implant dentistry evolves rapidly. We maintain current knowledge through ongoing education, seek feedback on our performance, and adapt our practices as new evidence emerges. We recognize the limits of our expertise and collaborate with specialists when patient care requires additional knowledge or skills.

3.3. Transparent Communication

In our research, we report methods and results accurately, including negative findings and complications. In clinical practice, we communicate risks and benefits clearly to patients. In

professional interactions, we share knowledge openly and credit others appropriately for their contributions.

3.4. Quality and Safety Focus

Patient safety drives our decision-making in research design, clinical practice, and technology development. We implement systematic approaches to identify and minimize risks, report adverse events honestly, and learn from complications to prevent future occurrences.

4. Research and Innovation Ethics

4.1. Research Integrity

Our research adheres to the highest ethical standards, including proper approval from ethics committees, informed consent from participants, and accurate reporting of results. We protect participant privacy, minimize risks, and ensure research benefits outweigh potential harms.

4.2. Intellectual Property and Collaboration

We respect intellectual property rights while promoting open scientific exchange. We attribute work properly, avoid plagiarism, and handle confidential information responsibly. When collaborating across institutions or countries, we establish clear agreements about data sharing, publication rights, and credit attribution.

4.3. Conflicts of Interest Management

We identify and disclose financial, professional, and personal relationships that might influence our research or recommendations. When conflicts exist, we manage them transparently through disclosure, independent oversight, or recusal from relevant decisions.

5. Professional Relationships and Community

5.1. Respectful Collaboration

We treat all colleagues with respect, regardless of their background, experience level, or viewpoints. We foster inclusive environments where diverse perspectives enhance our collective work. We address disagreements professionally and focus on improving patient care rather than personal disputes.

5.2. Mentorship and Teaching

Experienced professionals have a responsibility to guide and teach the next generation. We share knowledge generously, provide constructive feedback, and create opportunities for emerging professionals to develop their skills and contribute to the field.

5.3. Global Perspective and Cultural Sensitivity

Implant dentistry serves patients worldwide with diverse cultural backgrounds and healthcare systems. We respect cultural differences in treatment preferences and communication styles while maintaining universal standards for safety and effectiveness. We also recognize our responsibility to promote equitable access to quality implant care regardless of geographic or economic barriers.

6. Professional Relationships and Commercial Ethics

6.1. Industry Relationships

Relationships with commercial partners can accelerate innovation and improve patient access to treatments. We manage these relationships transparently, ensuring that commercial interests never compromise scientific integrity or patient welfare. We disclose financial relationships and avoid situations where commercial considerations might bias our professional judgment.

6.2. Collaborative Excellence and Knowledge Sharing

We advance scientific knowledge through generous collaboration while maintaining professional standards. We avoid practices that unfairly disadvantage patients or compromise scientific integrity, and we support regulations that protect both professional standards and patient interests.

6.3. Resource Stewardship and Sustainability

We use organizational and research resources responsibly, avoiding waste and ensuring that funds support activities aligned with our mission. This includes considering the environmental impact of our practices and promoting sustainable approaches to implant dentistry that protect both patient health and planetary health for future generations.

7. Technology and Digital Responsibility

7.1. Digital Innovation and Patient Privacy

As we integrate digital technologies into implant dentistry, we protect patient data rigorously and use technology to enhance rather than replace thoughtful clinical judgment. We stay current with cybersecurity best practices and ensure that digital tools meet the same safety standards as traditional treatments.

7.2. Artificial Intelligence and Clinical Decision Support

We approach AI and automated decision support systems thoughtfully, maintaining human oversight of critical decisions while leveraging technology to improve consistency and outcomes. We understand the limitations of AI systems and ensure that technology enhances rather than diminishes the doctor-patient relationship.

7.3. Social Media and Public Communication

Our public communications reflect the professionalism expected of healthcare providers. We avoid sharing patient information inappropriately, provide accurate health information to the public, and maintain professional boundaries in online interactions.

8. Implementation in Daily Practice

8.1. Quick Decision Framework

When facing ethical decisions, ask yourself: Does this serve patient welfare? Is it based on solid evidence? Am I qualified to handle this? Do I have any conflicts? If unsure about any question, seek guidance.

8.2. Learning from Experience

We regularly reflect on our practices, seek feedback, and view complications as learning opportunities. When we make mistakes, we share lessons learned to help others avoid similar issues.

8.3. Creating Safe Environments

We support colleagues in raising concerns, asking questions, and reporting problems without fear. Focus on fixing systems, not blaming individuals.

8.4. When You Need Help

Immediate patient safety concerns: Contact your local emergency protocols first, then notify the ITI leadership.

General questions and guidance: ITI Headquarters, Peter Merian-Weg 10, 4052 Basel, Switzerland, headquarters@iti.org

Ethical concerns and formal matters: ITI Ethics Advisory Board (via ITI Headquarters, ethics@iti.org)

9. Accountability and Support

9.1. Personal Responsibility

Each ITI member takes personal responsibility for upholding these standards and helping others do the same. We speak up when we observe practices that do not meet our standards, always focusing on improving patient care and professional excellence.

9.2. Getting Support and Guidance

The ITI provides resources, training, and mentorship to help all members meet these standards. When ethical dilemmas arise, support is available through experienced colleagues, our Ethics Advisory Board (composed of the three most recent ITI Past Presidents), and professional development programs.

9.3. Annual Reflection

We encourage all members to reflect annually on their professional growth, ethical challenges encountered, and areas for improvement. This self-assessment helps maintain high standards and identifies opportunities for additional support or training.

9.4. Living Document

This Code evolves as our field advances and new challenges emerge. We regularly review and update our standards based on emerging evidence, changing technology, and feedback from our global community.

10. Our Legacy

The patients we serve today and the professionals who follow us depend on our commitment to these principles. By maintaining the highest ethical standards, we ensure that implant dentistry continues to improve lives and that the ITI remains a trusted leader in advancing implant dentistry worldwide.

Our success is measured not only by scientific breakthroughs and clinical innovations, but by the trust patients place in our care and the respect our profession earns through consistent ethical excellence.

Together, we build a legacy worthy of the patients who depend on us and the colleagues who share our commitment to excellence in implant dentistry.

11. Contact Information

For General Questions and Support:

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headquarters@iti.org

For Ethical Concerns:

ITI Ethics Advisory Board (composed of the three most recent ITI Past Presidents)
Contact via: ethics@iti.org

The Ethics Advisory Board provides independent, confidential guidance on ethical matters and ensures the highest standards of professional conduct throughout the ITI community.