

ITI Code of Conduct: Excellence in Implant Dentistry

(Version May 2026)

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

The ITI community — more than 25,000 professionals united across 38 global sections — is our greatest asset and our clearest expression of shared values in action. As members of this community, we commit to four principles that reflect the pillars on which the ITI is built and the promise we make to our patients, our peers, and our profession.

Research: We base our work on rigorous evidence, acknowledge limitations honestly, and share knowledge openly to advance the field. We never allow commercial, reputational, or personal interests to compromise our scientific standards — because ultimately, every research question we ask exists to improve patient outcomes.

Education: We maintain the highest standards of competence, continue learning throughout our careers, and take full accountability for our contributions to implant dentistry. We share knowledge generously and ensure that education serves the long-term benefit of the patients who depend on our expertise.

Leadership Development: We invest in the growth of our members not only as clinicians and scientists, but as leaders. We take responsibility for developing the next generation of professionals through mentorship, structured learning, and by modelling the values articulated in this Code.

Membership: We take pride in belonging to a global community that holds itself to the highest professional standards. Every member carries a shared responsibility for the ITI's reputation, mission, and integrity — and for making that membership meaningful to the patients and colleagues we serve.

3. Our Professional Standards

3.1. Evidence-Based Practice

The ITI defines evidence-based implant dentistry as the integration of three elements: the best available external evidence, the clinician's relevant experience, and the individual

preferences, expectations, and engagement of the patient. Sound clinical decisions require all three to be honestly assessed and balanced for each patient and situation.

We ground our work in the best available evidence, acknowledge its limitations transparently, and respect the patient as an active partner in treatment decisions. When evidence is limited or conflicting, we say so clearly and avoid overstating conclusions.

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 other 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 to ITI HQ, 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, 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. The ITI is politically, commercially, and denominationally independent — our positions are guided solely by scientific evidence and the best interests of patients, free from political influence, religious affiliation, or commercial pressure. 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 the ITI's global network, Consensus Conference process, and collaborative research programs. We share findings openly, attribute work properly, and ensure that the knowledge we generate reaches clinicians in a form that directly benefits patients.

6.3. Resource Stewardship and Sustainability

As a non-profit organization, we are committed to using our resources exclusively in the public interest and in furtherance of our charitable purpose — a commitment we uphold with full transparency toward our members, partners, and the public. We use organizational and research resources responsibly, avoiding waste and ensuring that funds support activities aligned with our mission, including consideration of the long-term environmental impact of our practices.

7. Technology and Digital Responsibility

7.1. Digital Innovation and Patient Privacy

As we integrate digital technologies into implant dentistry, we protect patient data in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and use technology to enhance rather than replace thoughtful clinical judgment. We stay current with cybersecurity best practices and ensure that all digital tools are used securely, ethically, and in the best interest of the patient.

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.

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AI tools must be transparent about their scope and limitations. We disclose when AI has contributed to clinical recommendations, research outputs, or educational content – including manuscripts, consensus documents, and guidelines – and we verify AI-generated content for accuracy and integrity before use. AI does not meet authorship criteria and cannot substitute for scholarly or clinical accountability.

We are alert to the risk of bias in AI systems, particularly where training data may not represent the diversity of our global patient population. We advocate for AI tools built on diverse, representative datasets and regularly evaluated for fairness and performance after deployment.

We support compliance with applicable regulatory frameworks governing AI in healthcare and research, and we commit to developing AI literacy among ITI members so that technology is applied responsibly across our global community.

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 clinical and ethical decisions, apply the ITI's 3E Check: Is my decision grounded in the best available evidence? Does my experience match the complexity of this case? Has the patient been fully engaged, with realistic expectations and informed consent? If unsure about any of these, seek guidance before proceeding.

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. When things go wrong, we focus on understanding and fixing the underlying causes rather than attributing blame to individuals. Retaliation against anyone who raises a concern in good faith is not tolerated.

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, the ITI 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:

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