



Emergency Medicine Society of South Africa

**PRACTICE GUIDELINE
EM002**

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

This Practice Guideline sets out the principles of ethical standards for emergency care personnel.

Excluding the cover page, this Practice Guideline is **2** pages.

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EMSSA Practice Guidelines provide advice on recommended practice for emergency centres, emergency personnel and emergency care activities.

The information within these papers statements is advice only. EMSSA will not be held liable for clinical outcomes related to these Guidelines.

All citizens of South Africa have their right to emergency care enshrined in the Constitution. To fulfil this right, Emergency Care Personnel shall:

- Follow the principles of Batho Pele.
- Follow the principles of the Patient's Rights Charter.
- Ensure that patient welfare is their primary professional responsibility.
- Respond promptly, and to the best of their abilities, without prejudice, to the need for emergency medical care.
- Strive to protect the best interest of their patients
- Communicate truthfully with patients and secure their informed consent for treatment (unless the urgency of the patient's condition prevents this).
- Respect patient privacy.
- Deal fairly and honestly with colleagues, and take appropriate action to protect patients from health care providers who are impaired, incompetent, or who engage in fraud or deception.
- Engage in continuing study to maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide high quality care for emergency patients.
- Act as responsible stewards of the health care resources entrusted to them.
- Support societal efforts to secure access to emergency and other basic health care for all.

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