

## The basics of the instructions are:

1. International Standard EN ISO 15189. Medical laboratories  
- Particular requirements for quality and competence
2. Act on health care professionals 559/1994
3. Act on revising the national health law 928/2005 (unofficial translation)



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## Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists

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## CODE OF ETHICS FOR BIOMEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

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## Principles of Health Care Ethics

### 1. Right to good care

A right to good care involves also a right to receive trustworthy laboratory examination results without unreasonable delays. In order to create good service, circumstances should contribute to making the patient/customer feel to be in safe and professional hands and to be treated well.

### 2. Respect for human dignity

Everyone has equal and individual and personal human dignity

### 3. Right of self-determination

The patient/customer is to be informed and guided in a way fully understandable to him/her.

### 4. Justice

A right to reliable laboratory services and dignified treatment is the same for everyone and not dependent on age, domicile, social status, mother tongue, gender, ethnic background, culture, sexual orientation or religion.

### 5. Good professional skills and an atmosphere conducive to wellbeing

The right and duty of every biomedical laboratory scientist is to keep up and cultivate their professional skills.

### 6. Cooperation and mutual appreciation ([www.etene.org](http://www.etene.org))

(In depth [www.etene.org/dokumentit/EteneENG.pdf](http://www.etene.org/dokumentit/EteneENG.pdf))

## Principles of Biomedical Laboratory Science Ethics

### 1 Duties to the Patient/Customer

The patient's/customer's welfare and respecting his/her rights are the primary objectives in all the phases of the laboratory examination process when the biomedical laboratory scientists practise their profession [1]

As health care professionals, the biomedical laboratory scientists are obligated to maintain and develop their knowledge and skills required in practising the profession. The biomedical laboratory scientists shall adopt new scientifically justified methods and procedures. They will get acquainted with the relevant professional regulations, standards, recommendations and follow them. [2]

The biomedical laboratory scientists shall commit themselves to maintaining strict confidentiality. [2] Only the essential information required for sampling and laboratory tests should be collected, nothing else. The patients are entitled to be informed of the grounds why the information asked them during the sample taking or examination is required. [1]

The biomedical laboratory scientists respect the patients' self-determination: an examination requires the permission of the patients. The patients also have the right to refuse the examination [1].

The biomedical laboratory scientists use approved methods and are responsible for the quality and reliability of the laboratory tests in all the phases of laboratory testing. If some matters which do not match the requirements set for the examination occur during the sampling, transporting, storing, handling or analysing of the sample, the sampling/laboratory test will be renewed and the person having asked for the laboratory test will be informed [1].

The biomedical laboratory scientists handle all biological sample material respecting the privacy and rights of the sample donors.

The biomedical laboratory scientists are responsible for their actions, are aware of the limits of their knowledge and inform the person that is responsible for the care of the patient/customer of their findings that might be relevant concerning the care of the patient/customer.

The biomedical laboratory scientists shall always provide help to those in need of urgent care [2].

### 2 Duties to the Profession

The biomedical laboratory scientists strive to maintain the confidence and respect of the profession by their actions and behaviour. They take responsibility for developing the profession and the education.

The biomedical laboratory scientists actively strive to establish and maintain the good co-operative working relations with other health care professionals. They know the limits of their knowledge and respect the know-how of their colleagues and other occupational groups.

The biomedical laboratory scientists will provide their professional help, guide and advise other professionals in questions related to laboratory tests.

### 3 Duties to Society

The responsible specialists, the biomedical laboratory scientists strive to promote the health of an individual, the population and a living environment as a responsible specialist [3].