

*Cervical Spine Research Society  
Code of Ethics and Professionalism*

Professionalism is the amalgam of stringent ethics, discipline, and behavior in physicians as individual members of the Cervical Spine Research Society (CSRS) and collectively as a society.

As Members of the CSRS, we treasure the trust that our patients have placed in us, because trust is integral to the practice of medicine and surgery. During the continuum of cervical spine evaluation and management, we accept responsibilities to:

1. Serve as effective advocates of our patients' needs.
2. Disclose therapeutic options, including their risks and benefits.
3. Be sensitive and respectful of patients, understanding their vulnerability during their illness.
4. Fully disclose adverse events and medical errors.
5. Acknowledge patients' psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual needs.
6. Encompass within our care the special needs of terminally ill patients.
7. Acknowledge and support the needs of patients' families.
8. Respect the knowledge, dignity, and perspective of other health care professionals.
9. Disclose and resolve any conflict of interest that might influence decisions regarding care.

Our profession is also accountable to our communities and to society. In return for their trust, as Members of the CSRS, we accept responsibilities to:

1. Provide the highest quality medical and surgical care of the cervical spine.
2. Abide by the values of honesty, confidentiality, and altruism.
3. Participate in lifelong learning.
4. Maintain competence throughout our professional careers.
5. Participate in self-regulation by setting, maintaining, and enforcing practice standards.
6. Improve care by evaluating its processes and outcomes.
7. Inform the public about subjects within our expertise.
8. Advocate strategies to improve individual and public health by communicating with government, health care organizations, other professional societies, and industry.
9. Work with society to establish just, effective, and efficient distribution of health care resources.
10. Provide necessary medical and surgical care of the cervical spine without regard to gender, race, disability, religion, social status, or ability to pay.
11. Participate in educational programs addressing professionalism.

As physicians and surgeons, we acknowledge that we relate to our patients when they are most vulnerable. Their trust and the privileges we enjoy depend on our individual and collective participation in efforts that promote the good of both our patients and society. As Members of the CSRS, we commit ourselves and our Society to the ideals of ethics and professionalism.