

# Code of Professional Conduct 2025

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207 Providence Square  
Mill Street, London  
SE1 2EW, UK

020 7740 7200  
info@sor.org

[www.sor.org](http://www.sor.org)



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## 1. Introduction

*The Code of Professional Conduct* ('the Code') sets out the Society of Radiographers' expectations of the professional conduct of its members. Patient-centred care and patient safety are of foremost importance throughout.

### Who is the Code for?

This document is for all members of the Society of Radiographers (SoR), including students, trainees, support workers and the professional workforce.<sup>1</sup> It applies to all settings and roles, including members who are practising at the practitioner, enhanced, advanced and consultant levels of professional practice.

We recognise that the roles and practice of our members will vary. Students and trainees, for example, may not be able to demonstrate some standards until they have completed their education and training and begun to practise. Members are required to meet the standards outlined in this document, as appropriate and applicable to their roles and level of practice.

### Structure and language of the Code

The Code is structured in four sections, with standards underneath each.

In the Code:

- We use 'must' for standards that members are expected to meet (or be able to justify if they did not).
- We use 'should' where a standard may not always apply to every member or to every situation.

### Registration and regulation

Some members are regulated by a regulatory body set up by statute or registered by an organisation holding accreditation from the Professional Standards Authority (PSA).

All members are required to practise within the legal, professional, ethical and governance frameworks relevant to their practice and role. This means members must meet the standards and requirements of their regulator or registration body (if they have one) and practise within the policies and procedures of their employer (if they have one).

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For members regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), this includes meeting the HCPC standards of conduct, performance and ethics.<sup>2</sup>

The Code draws on the HCPC's standards of conduct, performance and ethics to articulate our expectations for all members, including those who are not regulated by the HCPC.

### **Meeting the Code**

We have published a range of advice, guidance and learning resources that aim to support members to meet the Code and other professional, legal, ethical and governance requirements relevant to their practice. These are available from the SoR website.<sup>3</sup>

Standards and guidance are also available from regulation and registration bodies, including the HCPC.<sup>4</sup>

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## Code of Professional Conduct

### Section 1: Relationships with patients and carers

- 1.1** You must promote and protect the interests of patients and carers.
- 1.2** You must seek to empower patients to make decisions about their own care and treatment.
- 1.3** You must communicate appropriately and effectively with patients and carers, introducing yourself and providing relevant information to support informed decisions.
- 1.4** You must treat patients and carers with kindness, courtesy and respect.
- 1.5** You must obtain informed consent or ensure that it has been given prior to undertaking any examination or treatment.
- 1.6** You must respect and maintain the confidentiality of patient information.
- 1.7** You must practise in an anti-discriminatory manner, including by:
- treating people fairly
  - understanding your personal values, biases and beliefs and taking action to ensure they do not lead to discrimination
  - taking appropriate action to challenge and address discrimination where it occurs.
- 1.8** You must maintain appropriate professional boundaries with patients and carers, ensuring that you do not use your position to exploit them sexually, emotionally or financially.
- 1.9** You must not provide care or treatment for a person with whom you have a close personal or emotional relationship, other than in exceptional circumstances.

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## Section 2: Patient safety

- 2.1** You must make patient safety your primary concern.
- 2.2** You must report any concerns about patient safety promptly and appropriately, following up or escalating your concerns where appropriate and necessary.
- 2.3** You must encourage and support others to raise concerns and not prevent others from raising concerns.
- 2.4** You must be open and honest with patients and their carers and apologise when something has gone wrong with the care or treatment you provide.
- 2.5** You must take all reasonable steps to address and reduce the risk of harm to patients and carers.
- 2.6** You must seek appropriate advice and limit your work or stop practising if you believe that your physical, emotional and/or psychological health may affect your performance or judgement.

## Section 3: Professionalism

- 3.1** You must make sure that your personal and professional conduct justifies patients' trust in you and the public's trust in your profession.
- 3.2** You must practise collaboratively and communicate effectively with other members of the multidisciplinary team, putting patients at the centre of your work and recognising and respecting the contributions of all members of the multidisciplinary team.
- 3.3** You must use social media and social networking sites in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- 3.4** You must identify and declare any potential conflicts of interest and ensure that they do not affect your professional judgement.
- 3.5** You must make sure that you represent your qualifications, education, experience, training and competence accurately.

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## Section 4: Professional practice

- 4.1** You must work within the current legal, ethical, professional and governance frameworks relevant to your role and the sector in which you work.
- 4.2** You must work within your scope of practice – the areas in which you have appropriate knowledge, skills and experience for safe and effective practice.
- 4.3** You must refer patients to another qualified practitioner if the care or treatment they require is beyond your scope of practice.
- 4.4** You should try to take care of your own health and wellbeing, recognising its importance to good practice and keeping patients safe.
- 4.5** You must maintain and develop your competence to practise through continuing professional development (CPD).
- 4.6** You must keep full, clear, accurate and up-to-date records for all patients that you care for and treat.
- 4.7** You must keep records securely.
- 4.8** You must only delegate care or treatment to another person if you are satisfied that they are competent. You remain responsible for the overall management of the patient.
- 4.9** You must provide appropriate supervision and support to those you delegate work to.
- 4.10** You must make good use of the resources available to you and provide the best service possible, taking account of your responsibilities to patients, carers and the wider population.
- 4.11** You should choose sustainable solutions where you are able to, including those that reduce the environmental impact of healthcare, provided these do not compromise standards of care.
- 4.12** You should participate in processes to monitor and review the quality of your practice through reflective practice, using evidence from audit and research.
- 4.13** You should contribute to the education of students, support workers and other members of the workforce as appropriate to your role.
- 4.14** You should seek opportunities to improve and develop practice.



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## References

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