

3.10.1 Ethical Standards for Documented Observations

Honesty

Strive for honesty in all documented observations. Honestly present data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent information. Do not deceive colleagues, authorities, families, children or the public.

Objectivity

Strive to avoid bias in collecting, organising, synthesising or analysing where objectivity is expected or required. Avoid or minimise bias or self-deception.

Integrity

Keep your promises and agreements; act with sincerity; strive for consistency of thought and action.

Carefulness

Avoid careless errors and negligence; carefully and critically examine your own work and the work of your peers. Keep good records of activities, such as data collection, program design, and correspondence.

Openness

Share data, results, ideas, tools, resources. Be open to feedback and new ideas.

Respect for Intellectual Property

Honour patents, copyrights, and other forms of intellectual property. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission. Give proper acknowledgement or credit for all contributions to research. Never plagiarise.

Confidentiality

Protect confidential communications, such as personnel records and child/family records.

Responsible Publication

Publish in order to share knowledge and information that may be genuinely helpful to others.

Responsible Mentoring

Help to educate, mentor, and guide others. Promote wellbeing and allow others to make their own decisions.

Respect for colleagues

Respect your colleagues and treat them fairly.

Social Responsibility

Strive to promote social good and prevent or mitigate social harms through research, public education, and advocacy.

Non-Discrimination

Avoid discrimination against colleagues, children or families on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, or other factors not related to scientific competence and integrity.

Competence

Maintain and improve your own professional competence and expertise through lifelong education and learning; take steps to promote competence in the profession as a whole.

Legality

Know and obey relevant laws and institutional and governmental policies.

Human Subjects Protection

When conducting research concerning children and families, minimise harms and risks and maximise benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy and take special precautions with vulnerable populations.

*Adapted from Shamoo A and Resnik D. 2015. Responsible Conduct of Research, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press).

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