

1 **Resolution Number:** 201-2020

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3 **Title:** Amendment to Current Statements of Position or Policy E-8 ASDA Student Code of Ethics

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Membership and Education

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7 **Sponsor(s):** 2019-20 Council on Professional Issues

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9 **Financial Impact:** None

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11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** The board recommends a yes vote.

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13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee recommends a yes vote.

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15 **Background:** The Council on Professional Issues reviewed ASDA’s E-8 policy and agreed on
16 modifications that would closer align the policy’s language and structure with the American Dental
17 Association’s language and structure. This was achieved by providing a one-sentence definition of each
18 category and separating the Nonmaleficence and Beneficence categories, and creating a separate
19 category for Veracity. As a close partner to the American Dental Association, ASDA works to have
20 aligned missions, positions and policies in order to present a unified voice within organized dentistry.

21
22 Additionally, two new lines specific to the dental student experience were added. The first is a line
23 under the Beneficence section, encouraging a respectful and collaborative environment in education.
24 The second is under the Veracity section, regarding conducting ethical research. Therefore, be it

25
26 **RESOLUTION**

27
28 **Resolved,** that the Current Statements of Position or Policy E-8 ASDA Student Code of Ethics be
29 amended to read as follows:

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31 The pathway to professional status is obtained through knowledge, skill, and experience with which
32 students serve their patients and society. Every dentist should strive to continuously improve their
33 knowledge of ethics in order to help achieve higher levels of patient care. These foundational ethical
34 values will serve as a guideline throughout the dentist’s career, from predoctoral student to fully
35 credentialed professional.

36 The American Student Dental Association recognizes the importance of high ethical standards in the
37 dental school setting. Therefore, the Association believes students should conduct themselves in a
38 manner reflecting integrity and fairness in both the didactic and clinical learning environments. The code
39 outlined below relates most directly to the dental school environment. To gain a more expansive
40 understanding of ethics in practice, please see the ADA Code of Ethics.

41 The following is the ASDA Code of Ethics:

42 I. Dental Student Conduct

43 A. All dental students are obligated to maintain high standards of moral and ethical behavior and
44 to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. This applies to the classroom,
45 clinic, laboratory, and other institutional facilities; externships, community service, or
46 meetings of professional organizations.

- 47 B. Ethical and professional behavior by dental students is characterized by honesty, **compassion,**
48 **kindness, fairness, and integrity, fairness and charity** in all professional circumstances;
49 respect for the rights, differences, and property of others; concern for the welfare of patients,
50 competence in the delivery of care, and preservation of confidentiality in all situations where
51 this is warranted.
- 52 C. All dental students are obligated to report unethical activity and violations of the honor code to
53 the appropriate body at the school.
- 54 II. Patient Autonomy ("self-governance"). **The student dentist has a duty to respect the patient's rights**
55 **to self-determination and confidentiality.**
- 56 A. Informed Consent and Refusal
- 57 1. Students should conduct a thorough discussion with every patient. This must be repeated
58 whenever there are substantive changes or additions to the treatment plan.
59 Discussion should include:
- 60 a. Diagnoses
61 b. Treatment Plan
62 c. Prognosis
63 d. Risks/Benefits
64 e. Alternatives
- 65 - The discussion should be in understandable terms and enable a reasonable patient
66 in the patient's position to make an informed decision regarding care, except in
67 emergencies, when risks are unknown, commonly known or the patient waives the
68 right of disclosure.
- 69 2. Students should inform the patient of the consequences of not accepting treatment. The
70 patient has a right to an informed refusal which should be honored by the student.
- 71 B. Patient Confidentiality
- 72 1. Should follow HIPAA Guidelines.
- 73 III. Nonmaleficence ("do no harm") and Beneficence ("do good"). **The student dentist has a duty to**
74 **refrain from harming the patient.**
- 75 ~~A. The student should conduct him/herself with veracity (truthfulness). He/she should always act~~
76 ~~in a manner that promotes the welfare of patients and avoids harm to the patient.~~
- 77 B. Treatment plans should be determined according to patient needs as opposed to unmet
78 requirements of the student.
- 79 C. No procedures should be started without instructor authorization, and all procedures should be
80 evaluated by the instructor upon completion.
- 81 D. Referrals to residents, specialists, or staff members should be made when the complexity of the
82 case exceeds the student's ability to meet the standard of care. The referring student should
83 inform the patient who will be responsible for dental maintenance and the reason for
84 referral.
- 85 E. Students should exercise discretion in treating family members due to problems associated with
86 medical history disclosure, confidentiality, objectivity, and professionalism.
- 87 F. **Students must never perform dental procedures while in an impaired condition, regardless of**
88 **the source of the impairment.**
- 89 ~~G. Students are encouraged to participate in community outreach programs in order to improve~~
90 ~~the dental health of the public.~~
- 91 ~~H. Students should advocate access to care for patients who are unable to receive care due to~~
92 ~~physical or mental disability or financial hardship.~~
- 93 IV. **Beneficence ("do good"). The student dentist has a duty to promote the patient's welfare.**
- 94 A. **Students are encouraged to participate in community outreach programs in order to improve**
95 **the dental health of the public.**

- 96 B. **Students should advocate access to care for patients who are unable to receive care due to**
97 **physical or mental disability or financial hardship.**
- 98 C. **Student dentists will encourage an environment that supports respectful and collaborative**
99 **relationships for all those involved in oral health care and education.**
- 100 V. **Justice ("fairness"). The student dentist has a duty to treat people fairly.**
- 101 A. Ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, **gender identity** or
102 infectious disease status should not influence whether or not a patient is accepted by a
103 student to receive care. Furthermore, all patients should be treated with the same level of
104 compassion, kindness and respect.
- 105 ~~B. Students must not discriminate against patients in high risk behavior groups.~~
- 106 ~~C. The student should not cheat, plagiarize, forge, or falsify official records, patient charts, or~~
107 ~~examinations.~~
- 108 ~~D. The student should not participate in activities involving theft and/or vandalism of school or~~
109 ~~student property.~~
- 110 E. Sexual harassment between colleagues, between health care provider and patient, and between
111 students and faculty or residents is unacceptable and must be reported.
- 112 F. Students must report suspected abuse/neglect of patients to an appropriate instructor.
- 113 G. Students should exercise respect when working with human cadavers.
- 114 ~~H. Controlled substances~~
- 115 ~~1. Students have the responsibility of protecting the integrity of the profession by~~
116 ~~reporting any suspicions of unethical behavior.~~
- 117 ~~2. Students must never perform dental procedures while in an impaired condition,~~
118 ~~regardless of the source of the impairment.~~
- 119 VI. **Veracity ("Truthfulness"). The student dentist has a duty to communicate truthfully.**
- 120 A. **The student should not cheat, plagiarize, forge, or falsify official records, patient charts, or**
121 **examinations.**
- 122 B. **The student should not participate in activities involving theft and/or vandalism of school or**
123 **student property.**
- 124 C. **The student will conduct research in an ethical manner and abide by all guidelines set by their**
125 **institution's Institutional Review Board.**
- 126 D. **Students have the responsibility of protecting the integrity of the profession by reporting any**
127 **suspensions of unethical behavior.**
- 128 VII. All members of the American Student Dental Association must comply with the ASDA Code of Ethics.
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- 131 **Action:** The Chair moves 201-2020 with a recommendation of a yes vote and to be placed on the
132 Consent Calendar.