

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE SEQC^{ML}



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INTRODUCTION

The **Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine** (SEQC^{ML}), as a Scientific Society that embraces the majority of Laboratory Medicine professionals, is aware of the need to have an "ethical framework" on which develop their activities, as well as their relations with the Institutions of all areas of the Administration, or with other Scientific Societies, with the citizens and in particular with our members.

The SEQC^{ML} contemplates, as a strategy, the promotion and development of Good Ethical Practices in their Area of Knowledge (Clinical Analysis, Biochemistry Clinic, Genetics). The essence of SEQC^{ML} is the people who make it up and assume the search for excellence in the following areas:

ETICAL VALUES

PERSONNEL

- Integrity
- Reliability
- Truth
- Transparency
- Tolerance
- Trust
- Credibility
- Confidentiality
- Honesty
- Dignity
- Respect for human rights without discrimination with regarding circumstances of the people: socio-cultural, gender, religious or racial diversity

PROFESSIONALS

- Professional expertise
- Responsible research
- Teamwork, powering the multidisciplinary axis of our profession

- Commitment to training, especially with the professionals in their education period
- Seek the welfare of patient
- Preserve the right to intimacy of patient

SOCIALS

- Collaboration with public and private institutions based on mutual transparency in relationships
- Commitment to human rights
- Sponsor Social Responsibility through collaboration in projects
- Promote sustainable and efficient management of health resources
- Promote collaboration with other Scientific Societies, Patient Associations and with any civil society organization whose purpose is the well-being of the patient

DISCLOSURES

Advocate for self-regulation in the declaration of any "conflict of interest", both for the management bodies of the SEQC^{ML}, and for its partners. A specific statement should be expressed for that situation for the sake of transparency.

The editors and reviewers of the SEQC^{ML} publications, including the Continuing Education Programme and the Journal "Advances in Laboratory Medicine" must declare conflicts of interest and will refrain from evaluating those originals that may give rise to doubts about their editorial independence.

AUSPICIES

The SEQC^{ML} has a regulation for the sponsorship of activities and documents, approved by the Board of Directors in April 2018, which establishes the activities that can be

sponsored, the procedures for their application, as well as the rights and duties of those responsible of the sponsored activity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will work to maintain the cohesion of the SEQC^{ML} and will try to have the highest levels of transparency, veracity and fairness in its decisions, both in those that affect the members and its internal organization.

RELATIONSHIPS

IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC COMPANIES

Relationships with the Industry, especially with those of In Vitro Diagnostics and Health Technology companies, will be based on transparency and mutual benefit applying the superior purpose of search for knowledge for its ultimate application to the patient.

MEDIA

The Communication Committee, the Board of Directors and any member of the Committees, Commissions or Working Groups must transmit the specialized information according to the SEQC^{ML} ethical code.

ETHICAL CODE

The members of the Spanish Society of Laboratory Medicine (SEQC^{ML}) undertake individually and jointly to:

- ✓ Protect the values that imply respect for human life, the dignity of people (patients), and any measure that includes the improvement in the health status of people and the Community.
- ✓ Respect human rights without any discrimination in relation to people's circumstances: socio-cultural, gender, religious and/or racial diversity.
- ✓ Maintain the standards of professionalism regarding the personal values of coherence, transparency, truthfulness, honesty, empathy, credibility and confidentiality, maintaining a high level of personal integrity.
- ✓ Avoid scientific and professional malpractice including, but not limited to, fraud, plagiarism, inappropriate concealment or omission of information, and false or misleading statements.
- ✓ Promote a high level of quality in professional performance, including the validity and reliability of test results, interpretive opinions, publications and scientific research, promoting the transparency of information.
- ✓ Respect the privacy and confidentiality of protected medical information found during the course of professional activities in accordance with legal and ethical obligations.
- ✓ Encourage professional development, knowledge and skills, and present them accurately.
- ✓ Promote the safety and well-being of patients, employees, co-workers, the general public and care for the environment.
- ✓ Avoid and/or work to resolve current or potential conflicts of interest.
- ✓ Sponsor the development of comprehensive care models for chronic patients, and contribute to reducing inequalities in healthcare.
- ✓ Regarding scientific publications, non-ethical actions or activities are not admissible such as: falsifying or inventing data, plagiarize, prematurely or sensationally publicize procedures of unproven efficacy, include as author someone who has not participated in the design or development, avoid communicating funding sources or make repetitive publications.