



AANMS MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Member Code of Conduct of the Australasian Association of Nuclear Medicine Specialists (AANMS) sets out principles to guide nuclear medicine specialists in the provision of quality medical and imaging services to their patients, to guide the conduct of their relationships with patients, colleagues, members of the community and the Association and to reinforce the importance of maintaining the integrity and good reputation of the profession of nuclear medicine.

Responsibilities of the Nuclear Medicine Specialist

Members of the AANMS shall respect their special knowledge and professional skills and shall practice nuclear medicine with a high standard of professional practice and ethical behaviour. Members shall deal with patients, staff, colleagues and members of the community fairly and without discrimination.

Members shall maintain their clinical competence and current knowledge of nuclear medicine.

Members shall conduct quality nuclear medicine services and render professional opinions based upon the performance of the appropriate service in combination with clinical assessment of the patient (including correlation with other clinical information and imaging as may be relevant).

Members shall provide appropriate personal supervision for all nuclear medicine services and shall provide a report on each service in a timely manner and undertake further investigation or treatment when appropriate. In the case of accredited training sites, a trainee may perform some, or all, of these tasks under the supervision of the nuclear medicine specialist.

Patient reports should be clear and concise with relevant findings emphasised. Reports should be provided to referring doctors in a timely manner. In the event that urgent, clinically significant, unexpected findings are found, reasonable attempts should be made to undertake prompt and direct communication with the referrer (and/or medical staff currently managing the patient) to allow for timely medical intervention as appropriate.

Assuring Quality and Safety

Members shall ensure that all diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine services are carried out in a manner that is as safe as possible for patients, staff and members of the public. Members shall ensure that any procedure is clinically indicated and that the benefits of the procedure outweigh the risks, if necessary in consultation with the referring medical practitioner. Members shall ensure appropriate radiation safety measures and government radiation licensing regulations are adhered to and appropriate quality assurance activities are undertaken. Appropriately trained staff shall be available for the provision of nuclear medicine services. Practices shall be equipped to ensure an appropriate level of safety and quality.

Members shall ensure that any adverse event is reported in accordance with the relevant regulatory requirements and disclosed as appropriate to the patient. Adverse events should be investigated and measures should be implemented, as appropriate, to prevent recurrence.

Provision of Information to Patients

Patients shall be informed of the nature, duration and any significant risks of nuclear medicine procedures and appropriate consent obtained.

Research

Members shall follow ethical principles and standards of medical research, as enunciated by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in Australia and the New Zealand Health Research Council (NZHRC) in New Zealand. Members shall particularly be concerned about radiation protection standards in any research in which they are involved.

When an author of a research publication, a Fellow shall have made a significant contribution to the conduct of the research study and must be satisfied that the results are correct and justify the conclusions.

Members shall be aware of patients' rights with respect to the collection, use, disclosure and access to personal health information, including disclosure as provided for under the law. Patients' anonymity must be preserved in case presentations and in research, except with their permission.

Advocacy for Nuclear Medicine

Members shall advocate for the practice of high quality nuclear medicine in accordance with the principles set out in this Code. Members shall ensure that any public statements regarding Nuclear Medicine matters reflect current knowledge and considered professional opinion. Individual patients shall not be identified without their permission. Members shall not use the mass media for self-promotion.

Confidentiality

Members are to treat any information gained in their dealings with AANMS that is not known to the general public as confidential information. Members should not:

- Use confidential information for any personal benefit or profit
- Disclose confidential information to anyone outside of the Association
- Replicate confidential documents and files and store them on insecure devices

Ethical cornerstones

All Members are expected to behave with integrity, objectivity, accountability, professional competence, and professional behaviour; treating all people with whom they deal with respect and dignity.

Members must always act in the best interest of the AANMS and uphold the good reputation of the Association and the profession. Members must not take any action, or fail to take action, that may breach this code or any applicable law, regulation or associated codes.

Any breaches should be reported to the President or Vice President of the AANMS.