
SEFH/FEFH'S TEN-POINT ETHICAL GUIDELINES

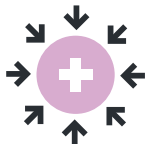






#1 On the Profession

- SEFH/FEFH is committed with advancing **professional excellence** in the field of hospital pharmacy. Adoption of the scientific method will be encouraged as a way to promote public health, provide pharmaceutical care and encourage the rational use of medicines and health technologies.
- SEFH/FEFH shall also promote its members' **scientific integrity**. With that aim in mind, they shall strive to **keep their members' knowledge and competencies up to date** and to encourage a professional practice based on evidence and on efficiency and sustainability criteria.
- SEFH/FEFH shall promote and disseminate **best practices and strive to minimize variability in pharmaceutical care** by preparing clinical guidelines and collaborative norms and procedures aimed at fostering friendship and affability among practitioners.
- Whenever representing SEFH or FEFH, their officials, members and employees shall exercise particular care during their public appearances and ask for prior authorization to inform the media or participate in seminars or conferences that may attract public notoriety.



#2 SEFH's Members

- The freedom, critical thinking, integrity, leadership and quality of SEFH/FEFH members will be promoted and protected.
- One of the most distinctive hallmarks of SEFH and FEFH is their profound belief in democracy and participation, which invariably results in decisions being made on the basis of debate, consensus, plurality and feasibility.
- SEFH is committed to ensuring its members can access all its services (educational, investigational, technological) transparently and in equal conditions.
- Members will be encouraged to become involved in all aspects related to their professional development.
- SEFH is committed to upholding the principles of equality, merit-based leadership and transparency in all recruitment processes.



#3 | On

Patients and Society

- SEFH/FEFH shall promote participation of patients, their caregivers and society as a whole in its activities. To this effect, a **Patients Advisory Committee** will be created with its own schedule of activities. SEFH/FEFH shall evaluate participants' satisfaction with the activities organized.
- SEFH/FEFH shall organize activities specifically targeted to patients and caregivers, and will appoint an official whose remit will be to interact with patients and their associations to understand and subsequently meet their expectations.
- Patient participation must be incorporated into SEFH's **workgroups**, and into every project promoted and organized by SEFH/FEFH.



#4 | On

Professional collaboration

- Knowledge shall not be confined within the organization. SEFH/FEFH shall actively share the knowledge, abilities and skills they possess with other institutions, with the ultimate goal of improving and maintaining public health.
- SEFH/FEFH shall strive to promote teamwork and the interaction between professionals and levels of care, and within members of multidisciplinary teams, collaborating with professionals from other specialties, scientific societies, pharmaceutical groups, universities and patient associations, as well as with national and regional healthcare authorities, the media, the pharmaceutical industry and centers dedicated to healthcare technology.
- SEFH/FEFH members shall collaborate with other pharmacists on an equal footing so as to ensure the continuity of care and proper coordination between care levels, and to gain the patients' trust.



#5 | On

Scientific knowledge

- SEFH/FEFH shall always use their independent judgement in their public appearances and public statements, and in their collaborations with patient associations, companies and/or organizations.
- We shall always see to it that the information we convey is truthful.
- The Independence of our training programs shall prevail over any business considerations.
- SEFH/FEFH shall contribute to the dissemination and enhancement of scientific knowledge across the different areas of hospital pharmacy.



#6 On Institutional relations

- SEFH/FEFH's relationship with authorities, regulators and public administrations shall be based on the principle of cooperation and diligence.
- SEFH/FEFH shall maintain a working relationship with national and regional health authorities, contributing to raising the standards of the health system with their knowledge, critical judgement and professional acumen.
- SEFH/FEFH shall make judicious use of their corporate image and reputation. All SEFH/FEFH members, officials and employees shall strive to uphold the organization's image in their public appearances.



#7 On The pharmaceutical and technological industry

- SEFH/FEFH consider that the pharmaceutical and healthcare technology industries are important levers for the attainment of their institutional goals. Relationships should be based on respect, Independence and transparency.
- Close collaboration with the pharmaceutical and healthcare technology industries is necessary for investigating, developing and enhancing the safety of medicines and the processes involved in their use.
- The relationship with pharmaceutical and healthcare technology industries shall be based on a system that ensures transparency and on projects whose results can be measured and audited. SEFH/FEFH shall evaluate and, if appropriate, give their endorsement to projects designed by the pharmaceutical industry. This activity shall under no circumstances involve SEFH/FEFH's participation in activities involving direct support for medicines and/or healthcare products for sale on the market.



#8 On Transparency

- SEFH/FEFH are committed with ensuring transparency across their organizations, making all economic and management information and all external and internal documents available to the public, with due regard for privacy and confidentiality.
- When developing scientific or training activities with funding from for-profit organizations, SEFH/FEFH shall make a full disclosure of the nature of such activities. The Independence of contents and speakers' freedom of expression shall be guaranteed.



#9 | On

Corruption and conflict of interest

- No gifts shall be accepted that are made in the hope of receiving preferential treatment or to influence SEFH/FEFH's professional decisions. No payments shall be made nor benefits granted to entities or organizations in order to obtain advantages for an individual or for SEFH/SEFH as organizations.
- No person acting on behalf of SEFH/FEFH shall use their position to promote medicines and/or healthcare products (already on the market or under development).
- SEFH shall require all speakers making presentations at the different educational events it organizes or supports with institutional funds, in its own name or in that of its workgroups, to submit a statement reflecting any potential conflicts of interest with regard to their collaboration with private companies. Such statements shall be made public. Although speakers are free to receive fees for teaching or scientific work done for such companies, they are under a moral obligation to disclose such activities to the public.
- SEFH/FEFH shall draw up a declaration of the conflicts of interests in the different documents published, stating the sources of funding for each of them.
- The members of SEFH/FEFH's Governance Board shall publish their potential conflicts of interests in the website's transparency portal.



#10 | On

Social responsibility and global health

- Priority will be given to the purchase and use of environmentally-friendly products and services, sourced whenever possible through fair trade channels.
- Actions shall be promoted to protect the health of the planet, with a view to preserving it for future generations, in line with the sustainable development goals.
- SEFH/FEFH shall conduct their business in a responsible way, integrating the principles of the United Nations' Global Compact into their strategies and operations.
- SEFH/FEFH shall be committed with a rational use of resources and an efficient performance of their activities, thus promoting the sustainability of the health system.



- ⊙ *Having accepted the commitment of the professionals who make up SEFH/FEFH, it is established that compliance with the ethical framework will be mandatory for all activities. The rules of conduct stated herein shall be made public and enforced accordingly.*
- ⊙ *ETHOS, as SEFH's bioethics and clinical ethics workgroup, acts as a consultant to the society's Governance Board and as a recipient of queries and suggestions from all members. The ETHOS group reports annually on its activities and advises the Governance Board on all those actions and measures that it considers necessary in the face of new and changing realities.*
- ⊙ *SEFH/FEFH's governing bodies shall ensure that members, officials and employees abide by the conduct norms defined in the ethical framework for hospital pharmacy. Utmost caution must be exercised at all times, not only to guarantee the ethical conduct of technical, scientific and economic matters, but also to be as responsive as possible in addressing instances of incorrect ethical conduct, thereby reducing the damage they may inflict on our organization (6). The monitoring and interpretation of the ethical framework is entrusted to the Governance Board, which will act in collaboration with the ETHOS group. In the event of ethical conflict, SEFH/FEFH's ethical framework will be legitimized by convening the ETHOS group, and its aptness will be demonstrated if conflicts are resolved after critical discernment and ensuing prudent and consensual solutions. Indeed, such solutions, together with specific training, shall be the key to maintaining a healthy ethical climate in our organization (7,8).*
- ⊙ *All new members will receive a copy of SEFH's Ethical Framework on being admitted to the Society.*



SEFH/FEFH'S TEN-POINT ETHICAL GUIDELINES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Prof. Dra. Begoña Román
University of Barcelona*

