

## **Excerpts from the AACAP Code of Ethics Related to Transparency**

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry's Code of Ethics guides child and adolescent psychiatrists in the changing landscape of the doctor-patient relationship in the modern practice of child and adolescent psychiatry. The following excerpts from the Code of Ethics address issues of transparency. To read the entire Code of Ethics, visit [www.aacap.org](http://www.aacap.org).

### ***From principle VI: third-party influence:***

- Child and adolescent psychiatrists' primary concern is the welfare, functioning, and optimum development of children and adolescents.
- The child and adolescent psychiatrist's primary responsibility is to act on behalf of children, adolescents, and their families.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists put the health and welfare of children above any other competing interest.
- As third parties raise possibilities of conflicts of interest, child and adolescent psychiatrists must keep the interests of children and adolescents paramount.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists cannot allow third parties to improperly influence professional judgment.
- Potential influences cannot compromise the integrity and transparency of child and adolescent psychiatry's clinical, educational and research activities.
- When possible conflicts of interest arise, child and adolescent psychiatrists should fully describe the conflicts to all involved parties and openly disclose these facts publicly.
- Examples of third party influence could include gifts, dinners, educational opportunities, recreational outings, medication samples, financial support, or investments.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists must be conscious of attempts at influence and how they might persuade the child and adolescent psychiatrist to act in ways inconsistent with the best available scientific and clinical evidence.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists should not accept enticements that can compromise the AACAP Code of Ethics' principles.
- When providing clinical care, teaching or engaging in promotional activities, child and adolescent psychiatrist must declare third-party support from hospitals,

insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and other industries, and/or government grants, whether or not the professional perceives a conflict of interest.

***From principle VII: research activities:***

- Research provides the foundation for child and adolescent psychiatry's knowledge base.
- The first priority of researchers is the welfare of research participants and their families.
- All aspects of a research study must defer to the safety and well-being of the participant.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists who conduct research must ensure that their investigative processes are conducted ethically and are compliant with all federal, state, local, and institutional regulations.
- Institutional Review Boards must approve all research protocols before research studies are implemented.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists conducting research must report all potential conflicts of interest with the research study participants before the research begins.
- All potential risks and benefits of the research should be clearly described to the study's participants and their guardians.
- Study results must be made public in a timely manner after a research project is completed, regardless its findings.
- Publications should include details on who sponsored the study, data collection, analysis, and results.
- When questions arise during the course of research, child and adolescent psychiatrist investigators should seek consultation with their Institutional Review Board.

***From IX Professional Rewards***

- The pursuit of personal rewards cannot interfere with the care or treatment of individual children and adolescents, their families and communities.

***From principle X: Legal Considerations***

- Child and adolescent psychiatrists must be aware of all laws, federal and state, that govern medical practice they where work.
- Knowledge of relevant laws is an important component of ethically responsible child and adolescent psychiatry.