This course was developed to help expand the knowledge and skills of dental professionals with respect to the subject of ethics. The information in this course has been derived from various professional sources including but not limited to the American Dental Association and the American College of Dentists.

It is the responsibility of the dental professional to determine which principles contained herein are appropriate with respect to his/her personal limitations and scope of practice.

The information in this course has been carefully researched and is generally accepted as factual at the time of publication. The Institute for Advanced Therapeutics, Inc. disclaims responsibility for any contradictory data prior to the publication of the next revision of this course.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

COURSE DIRECTIONS
MAILING INSTRUCTIONS
COURSE OBJECTIVES
CHAPTER 1
WHAT IS ETHICS
CHAPTER 2
THE ADA CODE
CHAPTER 3
ETHICS AND THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS
CHAPTER 4
THE PROCESS OF ETHICAL DECISION MAKING
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE TEST
ETHICS FOR THE DENTAL PROFESSIONAL TEST
TEST ANSWER CARD/COURSE EVALUATION
GLOSSARY
REFERENCE LIST
COURSE DIRECTIONS

HOW TO BEST PROCEED WITH THIS COURSE

Each chapter should be approached systematically in a careful and objective manner. It is important to master each chapter before going on to the next. Relax, take your time, and go at your own pace. As 3 credits of continuing education are rewarded after successfully completing this course, the reading of this manual and completion of the test questions should take approximately 3 hours. Only after you have successfully mastered all the material in the course should you proceed to the test questions.

COMPLETING THE TEST

Before beginning, please clearly write your name, address, zip code, and license number on your test answer card. Read each question carefully before answering. Please use a ballpoint pen to fill-in your answers on the answer card by completely shading your choice. Keep in mind that each question has only one correct answer. The test consists of 30 questions. For a passing grade, you must correctly answer 24 questions. We encourage your input and would welcome any suggestions to improve our course or test questions. Please feel free to note your suggestions or comments on the course evaluation found at the bottom of the test answer card.

INFORMATION FOR CERTIFICATION

In order to receive your 3 hours of continuing education credit, you must be a registered purchaser of this course. Please notify us of any address or name changes as we keep permanent records for certification and licensure.
MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Please send your completed test answer card and course evaluation to:

The Institute for Advanced Therapeutics, Inc.
P.O. Box 848152
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33084

If you have any questions regarding this course, please contact our Customer Service Department at 1-954-441-9553 or fax us at 1-954-432-1824.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand the meaning of ethics.
2. Understand the difference between legal and ethical issues.
3. Recognize advertising techniques that are considered unethical.
4. Recognize the questions that can help you solve a difficult ethical dilemma.
CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS ETHICS?

Ethics is a system of moral principles of conduct or values that govern an individual or group guided by good intent. You cannot be a true professional without being ethical. Most professions adhere to a code of ethics in order to establish guidelines for behavior and decision-making. You are not legally bound to follow these guidelines but failing to do so could lead to:

1. Ill will on behalf of your patients and staff which could put you at risk for legal troubles.
2. A bad reputation in the dental community.
3. Fewer referrals.
4. Disciplinary action or removal of membership by your professional organization.
5. Public ridicule.

As dental professionals, we are frequently faced with legal and ethical issues and our code of ethics determines how we manage in the scope of our practice. The code of ethics statements by dental professional organizations were primarily developed for the benefit of the patient. Dental professionals are expected to adhere to these codes of ethics to fulfill their responsibility not only to their patients but to:

1. Fellow health professionals.
2. Society as a whole.
3. Themselves.
ETHICAL DECISIONS VERSUS LEGAL DECISIONS

Although a relationship exists between ethics and law and they may sometimes overlap, there are distinct differences. Most government laws are based upon the moral values of the society in which they are written. Laws must go through a process of approval and, once approved, they are generally strictly enforced by state and federal authorities. Penalties for noncompliance may include a police investigation, arrest, and imprisonment. Some legal decisions may be perceived as unethical. Some perceived ethical decisions may be illegal.

Ethics are more about good intent rather than law. Penalties for noncompliance of your professional organization’s code of ethics are less severe and may include suspension or removal of membership and peer disapproval. Most laws governing the dental profession do not result in issues of ethical conflict. In some instances, however, a dental professional may attempt to act ethically but realize by doing so would be against the law. In such cases, consulting with peers may lead to a solution.

CODES OF ETHICS

A code of ethics defines moral values and boundaries within your practice and can make or break your reputation as a dental professional.
Most medical professional associations have an established code of ethics that comprise the aspirational goals of the profession. The following examples illustrate some common codes followed by many medical professional associations:

- Respecting the patient's right to confidentiality and privacy.
- Treating patients in a dignified and respectful manner.
- Observing the patient's right to refuse treatment.
- Providing informed consent for treatment.
- Practicing within one's limitations and scope of practice.
- Making appropriate referrals to other health care professionals when necessary.
- Refraining from mind-altering substances prior to or during patient treatment sessions.
- Refraining from engaging in sexual conduct or sexualizing behavior with a patient even if the patient attempts to initialize such behavior.
- Maintaining a safe and sanitary establishment.
- Refusing gifts from patients, physicians, or others which are intended to influence a decision or referral solely for personal gain.
- Improving technical skills through continuing education.
- Adhere to fair billing practices and avoid overcharging or billing for services not rendered.

Ethical issues often arise when one principle of a dental code of ethics conflicts with another. Dental professionals must take all facts into account and carefully weigh the risks and benefits of each possible outcome before making a final decision. A good understanding of both the law and various dental codes of ethics will increase the likelihood of a successful outcome.

END OF CHAPTER 1
CHAPTER 2

THE ADA CODE

The American Dental Association (ADA) has published *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* (ADA Code) which have the benefit of the patient as the primary goal. The *ADA Code* has three distinct parts: *The Principles of Ethics, the Code of Professional Conduct, and the Advisory Opinions.*

The *Principles of Ethics* contain the aspirational goals of the profession and provide justification for the *Code of Professional Conduct* and *Advisory Opinions*. There are five guiding principles that form the basis of the ADA Code.

1. Patient autonomy.
2. Nonmaleficence.
5. Veracity.

**Principle 1 – Patient Autonomy**

Principle 1 covers the principle of patient autonomy or “self-governance.” This principle expresses that dentists have a duty to respect patient’s rights to determine their own treatment according to their desires and safeguard the patient’s privacy and confidentiality. Ethical issues result when patient’s desires conflict with what the dentists believe are in their best interest (patient autonomy versus beneficence).
According to the *ADA Code of Professional Conduct*, dentists have an obligation to inform the patient of the proposed treatment plan and discuss any alternatives that may be reasonable in a way that allows the patient to be actively involved in the decision-making process. In other words, instead of just telling the patient which treatment will be performed, the dentist should discuss any reasonable alternatives given the patient’s needs, desires, and ability so the patient can help decide which treatment plan is best for them. Patients also have the right to refuse treatment even if the dentist believes the treatment is in their best interest. Again, the principles of patient autonomy and beneficence can collide in this instance. Written informed consent can reduce the incidence of dental malpractice litigation by proving the dentist provided the patient with all the risks, potential benefits, and alternatives to the proposed treatment plan.

Dentists are also obligated to protect the confidentiality of patient dental records but should familiarize themselves with the legal exceptions in their jurisdiction.

There are many reasons besides ethical to keep accurate dental records on your patients. A few are listed below:

1. To satisfy state laws.
2. To meet insurance filing requirements.
3. To defend the dentist or dental hygienist in the face of possible litigation.
4. To help the dentist or dental hygienist remember the client’s medical history and treatment plan.

In an effort to maintain patient records consistent with the protection and welfare of the patient, dental records should contain at a minimum:

1. An appropriate medical history of the patient.
2. Results of the clinical examination and any tests that were performed.
3. Identification of any oral diseases or lack thereof.
4. Radiographs taken to help diagnose or treat the patient.
6. Treatment rendered.
7. The name of the dentist of record or, if unidentifiable, the owner dentist of the practice in which the patient was seen or treated.

In addition, the following common-sense guidelines should be adhered to when maintaining dental records:

1. Write legibly and clearly.
2. Record the date on each entry.
3. Include the patient’s name and date of birth on each page of the record.
4. Include a client intake form with information such as full name, date of birth, address, telephone number, insurance data, next of kin or emergency contact, and the names of general medical and dental practitioners. Include name of parent or guardian if a minor.
5. Include any signed informed consent forms that clearly state the benefits, alternatives, potential complications and risks of the treatment.
6. Include a general medical history sheet recording both the positive responses as well as the negative responses.
7. Include the name of any medications and strength the patient is taking prescribed by other practitioners.
8. Include any examinations or tests already performed by other practitioners and the conclusions or results.
9. Include any previous dental diagnoses and treatment/treatment recommendations.
10. Include the dentist’s signature and printed name beneath each entry.
11. Include advice and treatment options given to the patient.
12. Include all warnings to the patient.
13. Include radiographs, progress notes and/or referral letters from other practitioners.
14. Include the reason for each visit.
15. If prescribing, dispensing, or administering any drugs or injections, clearly record the name, quantity, and strength.
16. Record the name of the dentist, dental hygienist, or any other auxiliary employee who performed treatment or assisted each visit.

17. Record all treatment performed, results of the treatment, and any complications encountered.

18. Maintain a record of all disclosures of patient information contained in the dental record.

19. Include all photos and radiographs taken during the visit.

20. Do not attempt to erase or white-out any part of the entry once written. If a correction in the record is desired, the information should be crossed-out with a single horizontal line and initialed by the dental health care worker.

This information should be kept in a chart and filed using a logical filing system for ease of retrieval or kept electronically in a computer system using the highest degree of data security.

According to the ADA Code Advisory Opinions, dental records are confidential and should not be reviewed or released to anyone without the patient’s written consent excluding the dentist of record or other health care providers involved in the care or treatment of the patient. Of course, dental records including all reports, insurance information, x-rays, and records relating to examination or treatment should be released according to applicable laws or if compelled by a court subpoena for which proper notice has been given. The furnishing of dental record copies shall not be contingent upon payment of a fee for services rendered.

**Principle 2 – Nonmaleficence**

The second principle is nonmaleficence. This principle focuses on the dentist’s duty to refrain from harming the patient.
Under the nonmaleficence principle, dentists should know when to delegate patients care to auxiliaries and under what circumstances. Equally important is keeping their knowledge and skills current and knowing when they need to refer patients to specialists. If the principle of nonmaleficence is violated, dental malpractice litigation can be the end result.

According to the ADA Code of Professional Conduct, dentists are not only obligated to keep their knowledge and skills current, but should consult with specialists or consulting dentists when necessary for the welfare of their patients. Specialists or consulting dentists should always return the patient back to the referring dentist or dentist of record following completion of care unless the patient specifically indicates a different preference. When there is no referring dentist, specialists are obligated to tell patients when further dental care is necessary.

According to the ADA Code Advisory Opinions, when it comes to patients referred by a third party for a second opinion, dentists giving the opinion should not benefit from the ensuing recommendation.

The ADA Code Advisory Opinions also dictate that dentists are obligated to use only qualified auxiliaries that perform duties they are legally able to perform. Dentists must also prescribe and supervise auxiliaries performing patient care under their direction.

Practicing under the influence of alcohol or while abusing controlled substances or chemical agents is highly unethical. All dentists have an ethical responsibility to report colleagues they know to be abusing drugs or alcohol while actively practicing.

In addition, a dentist who contracts an infectious disease or medical condition that can ultimately put the safety of their patients and staff at risk has the ethical duty to limit their practice to areas that do not endanger patients or staff. These dentists have the obligation to monitor their disease or impairment and make appropriate changes to their practice limitations upon the advice of a qualified physician or other authority.
A dentist also has an ethical obligation to immediately inform patients who may have been exposed to a bloodborne pathogen or any other potentially infectious disease during the dental office visit. Information regarding postexposure evaluation and follow up should be discussed as well and a referral given to a qualified physician or health care professional who can provide these services.

If a member of the dentist’s staff is the source of the exposure, the dentist should encourage that staff member to cooperate by submitting to testing as necessary on behalf of the patient involved in the exposure incident.

Trust is necessary to maintain any professional relationship. The dentist-patient relationship must always be on a professional level. Sexual misconduct is highly unethical and severely compromises the dentist-patient relationship. Dentists who use their position to engage in sexual activity with patients are widely condemned. Any sexual misconduct is a serious violation and grounds for disciplinary action.

The following common-sense guidelines should be observed in order to safeguard against allegations of sexual misconduct.

1. Do not joke about sexual matters in front of a patient or tell sexual jokes.
2. Do not have sexual relations with or date any patient in or outside of the treatment setting.
3. Do not agree to meet a patient in a social setting outside of the dental office.
4. Do not allow a patient to dress or undress in front of you.
5. Handle sexual advances in a professional manner by informing the patient that you follow a strict code of ethics prohibiting you from dentist-patient relations of a sexual nature.
6. Do not greet a patient with a hug or kiss.

There are ways to desexualize the dental office experience to help avoid potential sexual grievances. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Be aware of behavior that may be misconstrued as flirtatious.
2. Keep from sight anything in the work environment of a sexual nature, i.e. pornographic magazines, swimsuit calendars, etc.
3. Do not compliment patients on their attractiveness or weight loss.
4. Do not allow any part of your torso or lower body to come in contact with patients.

**Principle 3 – Beneficence**

The third principle is beneficence or “do good.” This principle covers the dentist’s duty to act in an ethical manner and put their patients’ best interests as a priority. Dentists must provide ethical care regardless of the patient’s financial arrangements to pay for dental care. Dentists should deliver competent and timely care to all patients taking into consideration the desires, values and needs of the patient. Ethical issues can come into play when the desires of the patient conflict with what the dental professional believes is in the best interest of the patient (patient autonomy versus beneficence). A decision then must be made as to which principle to take precedence.

According to the ADA Code of Professional Conduct, dentists should strive to elevate the esteem of the profession and are encouraged to take a leadership role in the community. They are also obligated to become part of a professional society or organization and observe its ethical rules.

When the results and benefits of a dentist’s investigative efforts can help safeguard and promote the health of the public, they are obligated to share that information.

If a dentist obtains a patent or copyright, they may do so provided it is not used to restrict research or practice.
Dentists should be able to identify signs of abuse and neglect and report their suspicions to the proper authorities according to state law. It is therefore an ethical obligation for dentists to keep current with state law regarding the reporting of abuse and neglect and to be knowledgeable in all aspects of intervention and available resources. It should be noted, however, that jurisdictional laws may vary in their definition of abuse and neglect, in their requirements for reporting and the extent to which immunity is granted to good faith reporters.

**Principle 4 – Justice**

The fourth principle is justice or “fairness.” This principle covers the dentist’s duty to treat people fairly. This principle stresses the importance of treating all patients fairly and without discrimination. Dentists must not refuse to accept patients based upon sex, color, race, creed or national origin. If a patient is known to be infected with a bloodborne pathogen such as hepatitis B or C, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, or other serious bloodborne illness, it should not be cause for denial of care as all patients should be treated equally.

If contacted by a patient for emergency care, the dentist should make reasonable arrangements to provide emergency care whether the patient is of record or not of record. If the patient is not of record, the dentist should always make arrangements to return the patient to the dentist of record for follow up care unless the patient specifically requests otherwise.

As a matter of ethics, dentists should report any gross or continual faulty treatment by other dentists to the proper governing agency. If a dentist has a different opinion with regard to treatment from the patient’s previous dentist, care should be taken not to unfairly imply
maltreatment by the previous dentist. Disciplinary action can be taken against a dentist who unjustly makes disparaging statements against another dentist. Caution should be taken to ensure that all comments made to a patient regarding another dentist are supportable and justified.

If issuing a public statement, dentists should be justifiable in their criticism and be certain any statements made with respect to the dental profession are true.

According to the ADA Code Advisory Opinions, dentists may elect to offer expert testimony when that testimony is necessary in providing justice in a court of law or an administrative action. As a matter of ethics, dentists providing testimony as experts shall not base their fees on any favorable outcome of the litigation.

It is unethical for a dentist to tender or accept “split fees” or “rebates.”

**Principle 5 – Veracity**

The fifth principle is veracity or, in another word, truthfulness. Being honest when communicating with patients and maintaining intellectual integrity should be primary obligations of all dentists. Patients place a tremendous amount of trust in their dentist and that trust should be respected by maintaining truthful communications at all times.

According to the Code of Professional Conduct, dentists are obligated to represent themselves in a manner that is not false or misleading.

It is unethical for a dentist to remove amalgam restorations or any other dental restorative material from non-allergic patients for the alleged purpose of getting rid of toxic substances from the body.
It is also unethical for a dentist to represent or advocate that their dental treatment or diagnostic technique can diagnose, cure or alleviate diseases, infections or other conditions unless it is based on accepted scientific research or knowledge.

Dentists must never represent their fees in a false or deceptive manner.

According to the ADA Code Advisory Opinions, it is unethical and considered “overbilling” if a dentist accepts a third party payment under a copayment plan as payment in full without revealing to the third party that the patient’s portion of payment will not be collected. It is also considered overbilling if a dentist charges one patient more than another for the same service simply because they have dental insurance.

Dentists must never falsely submit bills to insurance companies with incorrect treatment dates for the purposes of obtaining benefits that would otherwise not be available. It is also unethical for dentists to submit bills to insurance companies in such a way that makes uncovered procedures appear to be covered procedures in an effort to obtain greater benefits.

Dentists should never perform unnecessary dental services or procedures for the purpose of monetary gain as it is highly unethical. Dentists should be aware of conflict of interest issues and provide disclosure when necessary.

If a patient has an adverse reaction to a dental device or drug, the dentist is obligated to convey that information to the broader medical and dental community and, in serious cases, to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

When it comes to the marketing or sale of dental products or procedures, dentists have an obligation to independently review the accuracy of any claims the manufacturer makes and supply patients with enough information to make an informed decision. This includes telling the patient if the product is available elsewhere and if there are any financial gains to be made for the dentist to recommend the product that would not be obvious to the patient.
Dentists should not misrepresent their academic training or skill.

Most businesses and professions engage in advertising to obtain new business and the dental profession is no exception. When advertising for patients, dentists should be careful not to include any misleading or false statements in any material respect. Some examples of unethical advertising may include:

1. Intentionally omitting information necessary for patients to make an informed decision regarding selection of a dentist or procedure.
2. Making statements that imply results the dentist cannot achieve.
3. Making statements that imply superior quality services in comparison to other dentists if not reasonably substantiated.
4. Making subjective statements regarding the quality of care.
5. Making statements containing opinions that are not truthful.
6. Making statements that a patient can erroneously interpret as fact.
7. Using fellowship credentials in advertising media to the public that designate association not attainment.
8. Using degrees in advertising to the public that were earned by educational institutions that are not accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization.
9. Using honorary degrees in advertising to the public.
10. Paying another person or entity for referring a patient for dental services.
11. Using partial truths when advertising to the public and omitting material facts crucial to putting the advertisement as a whole into proper perspective.
12. Using the name of a dentist in advertising to the public that has not worked in the practice for over one year without permission from the departing dentist and without prominently advertising to the public of the departing dentist’s status.
13. Using a trade name or assumed name that is false or misleading in attempt to solicit patients.
Regulations established by the Federal Trade Commission prohibit false or misleading advertising claims. Violators will be subject to fines and possibly be forced to run a corrective advertisement at their own expense.

It is important to utilize good judgment when advertising dental services. While many unconventional techniques may be legal, they may not be ethical. Any practice not widely accepted by the dental community may be called unconventional though not necessarily illegal. Some additional advertising techniques that are unethical include:

1. Using fear tactics meant to scare the consumer into purchasing a product or utilizing a dental service.
2. Using guilt tactics meant to make the consumer feel as if they are a bad person if they do not purchase a product or utilize a service.
3. Using incomplete information on fees such as not indicating the advertised fee is the minimal fee.
5. Making statements promising cure of disease, pain or ailment.
7. Using undignified, silly or outlandish advertising gimmicks.
8. Making ambiguous or confusing statements.
9. In-person or telephone contact with the public in an attempt to solicit new patients.

The bottom line is each dental advertisement should be reviewed carefully before it is made public to ensure it is compliant with your state board governing the dental profession as well as any applicable dental organization’s code of ethics.

END OF CHAPTER 2
CHAPTER 3

ETHICS AND THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS

The American College of Dentists (ACD) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence, ethics, professionalism and leadership in the field of dentistry. As such, they subscribe to a code of conduct that is required of all Fellows of the ACD. Violations can result in removal of Fellowship. Highlights of the ACD Code of Conduct include:

1. Acting in a way that brings honor to the dental profession.
2. Not engaging in false or misleading advertising.
3. Committing to lifelong education and current developments in the field of dentistry.
4. Disclosing relationships with entities to avoid misrepresentation of facts.
5. Following accepted use of the F.A.C.D. abbreviation.

The ACD also issues Guidelines for Advertising by Dentists. Although it does not encourage or support advertising by dentists as it feels it does not promote the perception of professionalism, it urges those that do to comply with its Guidelines for Advertising by Dentists. It is well known that the ADA’s Principles of Ethics and Codes of Professional Conduct and State Boards of Dentistry contain advertising standards which are mandatory so the ACD puts forth a list of Aspirational Goals that members are encouraged to achieve. These goals:

1. Discourage ambiguous or confusing advertising.
2. Encourage a detailed description of any fees listed in advertisements.
3. Discourage the use of “inappropriately dramatic music, unseemly slogans, premium offers, slapstick routines, or outlandish settings” in advertising.
4. Discourage the use of fear tactics in advertising to the public.
5. Discourage advertising that implies unrealistic expectations of favorable results.
6. Encourage careful description of the dentist’s specialty and level of competency in advertising.

The ACD has a Policy on Advertising which lists guidelines that define the meaning of false, misleading or deceptive advertising.

In addition to the ACD Code of Conduct, the ACD has put forth Standards of Ethical Conduct which define the essentials of honorable behavior for its members. The ACD has also issued Core Values and Aspirational Statements of the Core Values which are meant to serve as a guide to ethical behavior.

1. Autonomy.
2. Beneficence.
3. Compassion.
5. Integrity.
7. Professionalism.
8. Tolerance.

To help in ethical decision making, the ACD summarizes decision principles, elements and models in order to increase understanding of the processes involved. When considering an ethical dilemma, the ACD presents the ACD Test for Ethical Decisions. It lists several questions that should be posed prior to making any decision regarding an ethical situation. These questions encourage dentists to assess, communicate then decide on ethical issues. Dentists can obtain a convenient wallet card from the ACD that contains The ACD Test for Ethical Decisions on one side and the Core Values on the reverse.

END OF CHAPTER 3
Dental professionals must go through a process that involves judging the ethical dilemma then choosing the best possible solution. When faced with a difficult ethical dilemma for which there is no obvious solution, asking yourself the following questions may assist in the deliberation process.

1. Do I have all the facts involved?
2. Are all the facts accurate?
3. What are the legal implications?
4. Have I considered all the options and alternatives?
5. Have I communicated truthfully to all parties involved?
6. Have I considered dental codes of ethics in the decision making process?
7. Have I carefully weighed the pros and cons of each potential decision?
8. Will the outcome of my decision foster good will?
9. Will my decision be viewed as fair to all parties involved?

Finally, compile a list of all the possible options. Under each option, list the pros, cons and possible consequences of choosing that option. Select the option you believe will provide the most successful outcome.

END OF CHAPTER 4
INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE TEST

Before beginning, please clearly write your name, address, zip code, and license number on your test answer card. Read each question carefully before answering. Please use a ballpoint pen to fill-in your answers on the test answer card by completely shading your choice. Keep in mind that each question has only one correct answer. The test consists of 30 questions. For a passing grade, you must correctly answer 24 questions. We encourage your input and would welcome any suggestions to improve our course or test questions. Please feel free to note your suggestions or comments on the course evaluation found at the bottom of the test answer card. After you complete the test answer card and course evaluation, you may mail or fax to:

The Institute for Advanced Therapeutics, Inc.
P.O. Box 848152
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33084
1-954-441-9553 tel
1-954-432-1824 fax
ETHICS FOR DENTAL PROFESSIONALS TEST

After analyzing each question carefully, please mark your response on the test answer card. Each question has only one correct answer. To obtain credit, return the completed test answer card with the course evaluation to The Institute for Advanced Therapeutics, Inc.

1. Ethics is a system of moral principles of conduct or values that govern an individual or group guided by good intent.
   a. true.
   b. false.

2. The code of ethics statements by dental professional organizations were primarily developed for the benefit of the dentist.
   a. true.
   b. false.

3. Dental ethics focuses on law rather than intent.
   a. true.
   b. false.

4. One principle of a dental code of ethics can conflict with another principle.
   a. true.
   b. false.

5. The primary goal of the *ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct* is to benefit the patient.
   a. true.
   b. false.
6. There are three guiding principles that form the basis of the ADA Code; Patient Autonomy, Beneficence and Competence.
   a. true.
   b. false.

7. The ADA principle of patient autonomy may sometimes come into conflict with the ADA principle of beneficence.
   a. true.
   b. false.

8. There may be legal exceptions to confidentiality of patient dental records.
   a. true.
   b. false.

9. According to the *ADA Code Advisory Opinions*, Furnishing of dental record copies may be contingent upon payment of a fee for services rendered.
   a. true.
   b. false.

10. The ADA principle of beneficence focuses on the dentist’s duty to refrain from harming the patient.
    a. true.
    b. false.
11. According to the *ADA Code of Professional Conduct*, specialists or consulting dentists should always return the patient back to the referring dentist or dentist of record following completion of care, unless the patient specifically indicates a different preference.

   a. true.
   b. false.

12. According to the *ADA Code Advisory Opinions*, dentists must prescribe and supervise auxiliaries performing patient care under their direction.

   a. true.
   b. false.

13. According to the *ADA Code Advisory Opinions*, dentists have an ethical responsibility to report colleagues they know to be abusing drugs or alcohol while actively practicing.

   a. true.
   b. false.

14. The ADA principle of beneficence expresses that dentists have a duty to respect patient’s rights to determine their own treatment according to their desires.

   a. true.
   b. false.
15. According to the *ADA Code of Professional Conduct*, if a dentist obtains a patent or copyright, they may do so provided it is not used to restrict research or practice.

   a. true.
   b. false.

16. According to the *ADA Code of Professional Conduct*, it is an ethical obligation for dentists to keep current with state law regarding the reporting of abuse or neglect and to be knowledgeable in all aspects of intervention and available resources.

   a. true.
   b. false.

17. The ADA principle of veracity stresses the importance of treating all patients fairly and without discrimination.

   a. true.
   b. false.

18. According to the ADA principle of justice, if contacted by a patient for emergency care, the dentist should make reasonable arrangements to provide emergency care whether the patient is of record or not of record.

   a. true.
   b. false.
19. According to the ADA Code, dentists have an ethical obligation to report any gross or continual faulty treatment by other dentists to the proper governing agency.

a. true.

b. false.

20. According to the ADA Code, disciplinary action can be taken against a dentist who unjustly makes disparaging statements against another dentist.

a. true.

b. false.

21. According to the ADA Code Advisory Opinions, dentists may elect to offer expert testimony when that testimony is necessary in providing justice in a court of law or an administrative action.

a. true.

b. false.

22. According to the ADA Code, it is not unethical for a dentist to tender or accept “split fees” or “rebates.”

a. true.

b. false.
23. According to the Code of Professional Conduct, dentists are obligated to represent themselves in a manner that is not false or misleading.

a. true.
b. false.

24. The concept of truthfulness is covered under the fifth principle of the ADA code known as veracity.

a. true.
b. false.

25. According to the ADA Code, dentists may ethically remove amalgam restorations or any other dental restorative material from non-allergic patients for the alleged purpose of getting rid of toxic substances from the body.

a. true.
b. false.

26. According to the ADA Code, dentists may ethically represent or advocate that their dental treatment or diagnostic technique can diagnose, cure or alleviate diseases, infections or other conditions provided it is based on accepted scientific research or knowledge.

a. true.
b. false.
27. According to the ADA Code, a dentist can ethically charge one patient more than another for the same service if they have dental insurance.

a. true.

b. false.

28. Regulations established by the Federal Trade Commission prohibit false or misleading advertising claims.

a. true.

b. false.

29. The American College of Dentists (ACD) does not encourage or support advertising by dentists as it feels it does not promote the perception of professionalism.

a. true.

b. false.

30. For dentists who choose to advertise, the ACD Aspirational Goals encourages a detailed description of any fees listed in their advertisements.

a. true.

b. false.

END OF TEST
Attention IAT Student:
For immediate grading and to print your certificate from your computer you must take the online test.
To take the test online now, visit:
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TEST ANSWER CARD
ETHICS FOR DENTAL PROFESSIONALS

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DIRECTIONS:
1. Print your name, address, and license information in the space provided above.
2. Record your answers on this card using a ballpoint pen by completely shading over the letter of the
correct answer.
3. Send this test answer card and course evaluation to:

The Institute for Advanced Therapeutics, Inc.
P.O. Box 848152 Pembroke Pines, Florida 33084
1-954-441-9553 tel 1-954-432-1824 fax

1. (a) (b) 11. (a) (b) 21. (a) (b)
2. (a) (b) 12. (a) (b) 22. (a) (b)
3. (a) (b) 13. (a) (b) 23. (a) (b)
4. (a) (b) 14. (a) (b) 24. (a) (b)
5. (a) (b) 15. (a) (b) 25. (a) (b)
6. (a) (b) 16. (a) (b) 26. (a) (b)
7. (a) (b) 17. (a) (b) 27. (a) (b)
8. (a) (b) 18. (a) (b) 28. (a) (b)
9. (a) (b) 19. (a) (b) 29. (a) (b)
10. (a) (b) 20. (a) (b) 30. (a) (b)

COURSE EVALUATION
We hope that this course has provided you with a valuable learning experience. We welcome any
comments or suggestions to improve on your learning experience. Please take a moment to
complete this course evaluation. We thank you for choosing Institute for Advanced Therapeutics,
Inc. for your continuing education. Please evaluate the course Ethics for Dental Professionals
based on the criteria listed below:

Excellent Good Fair Poor
Ease of readability 1 2 3 4
Content 1 2 3 4
Terminology 1 2 3 4
Clarity of instructions 1 2 3 4
Applicability 1 2 3 4
Overall quality 1 2 3 4

Please describe any changes you would make to this course to improve it based on any of the
above criteria or others.

Would you recommend this course or Institute for Advanced Therapeutics to anyone interested in
home study continuing education?

What subject matter would you like to see offered in home study continuing education?

Please sign your name below if we may use your comments in our future brochures:

_____________________________________________________

AGD Provider # 321355 Code DM3016 California Dental Provider #RP4301
This a 3 Hour Course Course #03-4301-09014
GLOSSARY

**ACD:** American College of Dentists.

**ADA:** American Dental Association.

**ADA Code:** ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

**Beneficence:** The disposition to do good.

**Code of Ethics:** Guideline of professional conduct within a particular occupation.

**Ethics:** A system of moral principles of conduct or values.

**F.A.C.D.:** Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

**Informed Consent:** Voluntary written agreement by a healthcare or dental professional which suggests a treatment plan after explaining to the patient the risks, benefits and alternatives to the proposed plan of treatment. For the protection of the healthcare or dental professional and the patient, the agreement is signed by the patient prior to initiation of the proposed treatment plan, thus acknowledging that the patient understands and agrees to the proposed plan of treatment.

**Justice:** The quality of being fair.

**Law:** (For the purpose of this course). Written standards of conduct based on a society’s moral values with the interest of public safety and order in mind, generally strictly enforced by state and federal authorities.
Nonmaleficence: The duty to not harm others.

Patient autonomy: “Self governance.”

Scope of Practice: The range of activities that can be performed legally by a dentist, dental hygienist or other health care professional.

Veracity: The quality of being truthful.
REFERENCE LIST


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