

AMERICAN BOARD OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct of the American Board of Neurological Surgery (the “ABNS”) reflects our collective commitment and responsibility to uphold our organization’s reputation, practice ethical business behavior, meet rigorous professional standards, and comply with the laws, regulations and policies that govern our work. The Code of Conduct articulates our commitment to our values and ethical business behavior while reminding us that our overriding responsibility is to use sound judgment and personal integrity.

This Code of Conduct summarizes the key principles that should guide the conduct of every individual providing services to or on behalf of the ABNS, whether employee, volunteer, Director, officer, examiner, ABNS POST reviewer, vendor, etc. The ABNS’ Bylaws, Rules, Policies and Procedures provide more detailed guidance relating to specific ABNS functions and activities.

In addition, the ABNS’ Code of Ethics applies more broadly to the conduct of candidates for certification and ABNS Diplomates. The Code of Ethics can be found on the ABNS website at:

<https://abns.org/governance/#:~:text=Neurosurgical%20services%20must%20be%20provided,with%20one%20who%20is%20competent.>

Code of Conduct Key Principles

- In all we do, we will seek to further the mission of the ABNS to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards, and advance the science of neurological surgery and thereby to serve the cause of public health.
- We will approach discussions and decisions with integrity, responsibility, and self-discipline.
- We are committed to honesty, candor, fairness, the provision of a safe and healthy environment and respecting each other.
- We will be dependable and carry through on the things we say we will do.
- We are committed to ethical business practice and fair competition. We choose vendors objectively to provide the products and services that best meet our organization’s need.
- We respect and appreciate our volunteers’ service and generosity.
- We perform our work in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and our organization’s policies and procedures and are responsible for knowing and complying with the legal requirements relevant to our jobs.
- We will seek to understand the organization’s policies and procedures prior to engaging in dialogue or taking actions that could adversely affect the operations of the organization.

- We appropriately report any suspected wrong-doing and cooperate with activities and investigations which are conducted to ensure compliance with laws and with our bylaws, rules, and policies.
- We make objective decisions and avoid participation in any decision in which we have a self-interest.
- We are conscious of the appearance of being unduly influenced in any decision. We disclose matters where we are unsure where a conflict of interest exists.
- We safeguard, invest, and use assets to achieve the mission of our organization. We use ABNS resources for the benefit of ABNS only, and it is an organizational decision, supported by the leadership, to sponsor or support any outside organization or activity.
- We will maintain accurate and reliable legal and financial records to meet the obligations of and manage the affairs of the ABNS.
- We respect and promote the safeguards to ensure the integrity of our examinations and other processes, including non-disclosure of the names of candidates and CC participants being examined/discussed.
- We will not conduct ourselves in a way that could be construed as harassment; use inappropriate language, post or disseminate inappropriate materials, tell inappropriate jokes, etc.

As Examiners (including Directors):

I will grade candidates independent from other examiners.

I will endeavor to grade candidates consistently, reliably and fairly.

I will remain engaged in the entire examination of all candidates I am scheduled to examine.

I will not, for any reason, share the outcome of the examination with anyone outside of the ABNS.

Organizational Principles

ABNS Certification is the gold standard that promotes and recognizes excellence, not minimum standards

- ABNS Certification is voluntary
- ABNS Certification should be challenging and meaningful

Continuous Certification also should be meaningful and promote professionalism and continuous, lifelong improvement in knowledge that is relevant to the practice of ABNS Diplomates.