INDIAN PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

The Fourteen Codes of Ethics:

1. The patient's care, well-being and best interests should be the paramount consideration to a psychiatrist and all further provisions in the Code of Ethics shall be as per the treatment settings and clinical situations.

2. A psychiatrist should provide competent psychiatric care, with due respect for the patient's humanity, dignity and autonomy. This includes the conduct of an objective & comprehensive assessment, provision of honest & accurate feedback, provision or recommendations of evidence-based treatments, and maintenance of the relevant documentation.

3. A psychiatrist should act to establish valid, informed consent with individuals with mental illness, based on the provision of appropriate, adequate and understandable information, in keeping with the conditions laid out by existing laws.

4. A psychiatrist should exercise discretion in all aspects of psychiatric care, giving due consideration to the circumstances, and the patients' and / or their Nominated Representatives' wishes. This discretion should be reflected in the care of the patients they choose to treat, where they are treated, treatment modalities recommended, referrals to other specialists, clinical outcomes aimed for, and termination of care. This also includes appropriate delegation of clinical tasks to qualified professionals.

5. A psychiatrist should, whenever appropriate, consult, associate and collaborate with professional colleagues like other psychiatrists, other medical and allied specialists, social services, and law enforcement agencies, to ensure optimum outcomes for the patient's health and well-being. This could be integrated as part of a formal multidisciplinary team approach, or as individual inputs from other professionals. Conversely, a psychiatrist may, if asked and if they are prepared to do so, contribute to the care of a patient who is under another specialist/professional to the best of their ability.

6. A psychiatrist should uphold the highest standards of professionalism in all their interactions- be it within the clinical context, academia, research or otherwise. These standards include (but are not limited to) a.) honesty, b.) propriety, c.) accountability, d.) transparency, e.) integrity, f.) probity, g.) trustworthiness, h.) respect for boundaries, i.) recognising and addressing Conflicts of Interest.

7. A psychiatrist should uphold patients' right to confidentiality, within the provisions prescribed by the law of the land.

8. A psychiatrist should regularly update and maintain their knowledge and skills to fulfill their professional role of providing holistic care. They should refer patients to other specialists or seek their opinion as and when appropriate.

9. A psychiatrist should treat other professionals with respect and conduct themselves professionally in all interactions be it in the context of patient care and outside of it.

10. A psychiatrist should uphold the respect and dignity of the profession by conducting themselves responsibly in all situations.

11. A psychiatrist should work to raise awareness of mental health issues and promote mental health in the community. They shall ensure that information about mental illnesses given by them in public or social spaces is right and does not stigmatize or discriminate against people with mental illnesses.

12. A psychiatrist should strive to follow the ethical principles governing all aspects of academic training and teaching.

13. A psychiatrist involved in research should adhere to ethical principles governing research conduct, as required by the local research ethics committees / Institutional review boards. This includes all aspects of conducting research, applying for & managing research grants, research subject recruitment, conduct of the study, interpreting & presenting research findings, publishing papers & chapters and contributing to CMEs & conferences.

14. A Psychiatrist should uphold the sanctity of doctor patient relationship and ensure that they do not exploit the same for personal, social, business or sexual gain. They should adhere to the IPS Guidelines on Sexual Boundaries Violation (SBV).