

CODE OF ETHICS

Serbian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons

SRBSAPS



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Serbian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (SRBSAPS)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Code of Ethics is a set of principles and rules of conduct based on ethical values and norms of society and the medical profession. There is a close connection between legal and ethical norms, but ethical norms are, as a rule, broader in comparison to legal. Laws are generally aligned with moral norms and if a law is found to be unjust, the state authorities should be affected to change such a law.

These are not laws but guidelines based on which individuals may evaluate themselves and/or be evaluated by members (equal to themselves) in complex relationships between doctors and patients, doctors and colleagues, doctors and other healthcare workers and the general public.

Being a member of Serbian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (hereinafter referred to as SRBSAPS) is not the inalienable right of any surgeon engaged in plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, but a privilege granted by the voting of SRBSAPS members. A member of the Society is a moral surgeon competent to perform his/her profession based on medical doctrine, science, and art. Any plastic surgeon willing to become a member of SRBSAPS must observe the basic principles of conduct of plastic surgeons aimed at providing adequate quality services to patients and establishing good and collegial interpersonal cooperation.

The objective of adopting the Code of Ethics is to establish and regulate ethical principles that must be observed by all members of the Society for the better provision of services, the safety of patients, improvements in medical, surgical procedures and methods, mutual communication and better positioning of plastic surgery in medicine. SRBSAPS gathers only members willing to abide by the principles defined herein.

The ethical tenets defined in this Code relate to general and specific principles. Specific principles can be classified into those related to the profession, colleagues within the Society, patients, and society

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- I. The aim of the medical profession is to serve humanity with full respect for human dignity. Members belonging to this Society should earn respect of the patients who are left to their treatment, providing each of them with comprehensive help and dedication.
- II. The medical profession should protect the public and itself from doctors who do not own moral qualities and professional expertise. Members of SRBSAPS should adhere to all laws, emphasize the dignity of and respect for the profession, and accept the discipline they have placed before themselves. They should point to and expose, without any regret, any illegal and immoral behavior of other members of the profession.
- III. A member of the SRBSAPS must work and treat on a scientific basis and should not associate and cooperate with doctors who violate this principle.
- IV. A member of the SRBSAPS should strive to improve medical knowledge and skills, to constantly advance and contribute to better services provided to patients, and make his/her knowledge and professional achievements available to patients and colleagues.
- V. A member of the SRBSAPS shall not discriminate, particularly against patients and colleagues on any ground.

3. SPECIAL PRINCIPLES

3.1. Principles related to the profession, Society, and colleagues

- I. Each member is expected to act as a representative of the SRBSAPS during interaction with patients, colleagues, and the public.
- II. Each member is individually accountable and responsible for his/her own actions and words as well as the use of his/her name.
- III. A member of the SRBSAPS shall protect the public and patients from doctors not observing moral principles or not having sufficient competence to perform medical activity by revealing the illegal and immoral behavior of other members of the profession.
- IV. A member of the SRBSAPS has the right to seek consultations and opinions from colleagues when in doubt, when encountering a difficult case, when there is a dilemma about achieving a better treatment result or when wishing to meet the

- patient's need to hear other opinions about the treatment outcome. Members of the Society have the obligation to consultatively associate and give their opinion on the treatment of a patient belonging to any other member of the Society at his/her request, without requiring monetary compensation for it. Information on the patient and treatment must be kept as a strict medical secret and should not be misused by public disclosure. It will be considered unethical if patients are referred to other doctors for the purpose of earning additional profits (for the personal benefit of a doctor).
- V. Members of the Society must work exclusively in healthcare institutions and private practices registered for the activity of plastic, reconstructive, and aesthetic surgery and provide the service in accordance with their registration. They shall comply with the Law on Health Care, the Law on Patients' Rights, the Law on Sanitary Control, the Law on Safety and Health at Work, the Law on Fire Protection, properly keep medical records (obtain patients' consents of the proposed medical procedures, take anamneses with clearly defined preoperative preparation, operational method, and postoperative care and clearly defined controls), implement epidemiological measures to prevent the development of intrahospital infections, implement procedures for disposal and safe removal of medical, pharmaceutical and pathoanatomic waste, continuously monitor the quality of the work of their institution or private practice, regularly submit statistical reports, attend training within CME (continuing medical education) and properly keep a record of it.
 - VI. A member of the SRBSAPS may not provide services that are out of the scope of their registration and perform services in the field of plastic, reconstructive, and aesthetic surgery in health institutions and private practices not registered for the activity of plastic surgery.
 - VII. A member of the SRBSAPS must have professional liability and errors and omissions insurance.
 - VIII. In case of a medical error, members of the Society shall exert their utmost efforts to correct the error.
 - IX. A member of the SRBSAPS should establish cooperation with his/her colleagues - plastic surgeons – based on mutual respect and appreciation. He/she must not make false statements about other doctors and institutions and must not use information about the prices of other doctors to attract patients by reducing own prices.
 - X. A member of the SRBSAPS may be subject to disciplinary measures if he/she engages in unprofessional conduct violating the principles of the Code, repeatedly demonstrates medical ignorance, is involved in illegal financial activities, engages in self-exaggeration involving excessively boasting self-presentation, especially in the public media, a behavior suggesting that he/she is the only one capable of doing

certain types of surgical interventions, putting excessive emphasis on his/her skills and contributions in relation to equally trained colleagues, as well as making humiliating and malicious remarks about other colleagues and medical workers.

3.2. Principles related to patients

- I. A member of the SRBSAPS should respect the rights of patients, their personality, dignity, and realistic requests.
- II. A member of the SRBSAPS shall inform the patient about the manners of providing a service, about the preoperative, operative, and postoperative procedure, about possible risks and complications, about the methods of payment, about the price defined in the price list and what the price includes, i.e. whether it includes full or partial service. The patient should not be extorted money to continue treatment or to resolve complications and should not be asked for additional money unless it is pre-defined or the patient agreed in advance with the possibility of additional costs in case of complications.
- III. A member of the SRBSAPS shall not, in any case, mislead the patient, especially not in terms of the type of operation, the mode of operation, the doctor who performs the operation, and the expected results of the operation.
- IV. A member of the SRBSAPS shall not seek, prescribe or provide unnecessary medical service or diagnostics in order to satisfy his/her material interest.
- V. A member of the SRBSAPS shall not prescribe untested pharmaceutical preparations for gaining material benefit from pharmaceutical companies.
- VI. A member of the SRBSAPS should decide on the service that best suits the patient's needs in accordance with his/her request, but is safest for the specific case. The surgeon should not deceive or mislead the patient for the sake of gaining material benefit acting contrary to the medical doctrine and the adopted surgical procedures.
- VII. A member of the SRBSAPS should offer or provide additional reintervention insurance if a patient requests so.
- VIII. A member of the SRBSAPS must not ask from a patient for advertising that contains misstatements, praise of the patient about the doctor, suggests or creates unrealistic result expectations, singles out the doctor as better than other doctors also trained in the field of plastic surgery.
- IX. A member of the SRBSAPS is, in principle, free to accept or reject the patient in accordance with the patient's health status, the patient's expectations, the time when the patient seeks the service, and the like.

- X. A member of the SRBSAPS should not sexually or in any other way disturb or intimidate the patients to persuade them to perform a service with him/her.

3.3. Principles related to society

- I. A member of the SRBSAPS must be socially responsible by taking care that his/her work does not endanger the environment, by striving to help and use his/her knowledge and skills to provide first aid to all in need in case of emergency situations.
- II. A member of the Society shall not use false statements and difficult and incomprehensible medical terminology when advertising.

If a member of the SRBSAPS violates these principles, the Ethics Committee shall immediately propose the Board of Directors to suspend or exclude the member from the Society

The President of the Ethics Committee

Siniša Kojić

The President of the Society

Violeta Skorobać Ašanin