



Global Code of Conduct

Urolink is a Committee of the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) which aims to encourage and support the establishment of links with individual departments and organisations in low or middle-income countries (LMICs) and to facilitate professional visits to work with colleagues in resource-poor settings.

Urolink's core values

At Urolink, everything we do is guided by our core values:

Respect: We treat everyone with dignity and respect and champion the rights and contributions of all to achieve a fairer world.

Accountability: We are accountable to those whose lives we hope to help, to those we work with and to those who support us.

Courage: We are bold and inspiring in our actions and words in promoting global urological care and education.

Collaboration: We work with others to maximise our impact, respecting diversity and difference in the pursuit of common goals.

Innovation: We are creative and agile, always learning, and prepared to take risks to accelerate change.

Integrity: We act with honesty and conviction and our actions are consistent with openness, equality and human rights.

Professional values

Urolink expects professional conduct from individual's working with it according to the General Medical Council's ['Good Medical Practice'](#)¹. Working on behalf of Urolink often means holding a position of power and trust in environments where patients are more vulnerable and we expect individual's representing Urolink to uphold the professional standards expected in UK practice.

The duties of medical professionals registered with the GMC

Patients must be able to trust medical professionals with their lives and health. To justify that trust you must make the care of patients your first concern, and meet the standards expected of you in all four domains.

Knowledge, skills & development

- provide a good standard of practice and care, and work within your competence
- keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Patients, partnership and communication

- respect every patient's dignity and treat them as an individual
- listen to patients and work in partnership with them, supporting them to make informed decisions about their care
- protect patients' personal information from improper disclosure

Colleagues, culture and safety

- work with colleagues in ways that best serve the interests of patients, being willing to lead or follow as circumstances require. treat patients politely & considerately
- be willing to share your knowledge, skills and experience with colleagues, whether informally or through teaching, training, mentoring or coaching
- treat people with respect and help to create a working and training environment that is compassionate, supportive and fair, where everyone feels safe to ask questions, talk about errors and raise concerns
- act promptly if you think that patient safety or dignity may be seriously compromised. respect patients' rights to confidentiality
- take care of your own health and wellbeing needs, recognising and taking appropriate action if you may not be fit to work

Trust and professionalism

- act with honesty and integrity, and be open if things go wrong
- protect and promote the health of patients and the public
- never unfairly discriminate against patients or colleagues
- never abuse patients' trust in you or the public's trust in your profession

You are personally accountable for your professional practice and must always be prepared to justify your decisions and actions.

Urolink’s experience of medical environments in LMICs has suggested that UK practitioners working abroad should be reminded about the following four areas of good practice. It considers these of particular relevance to working in resource-poor environments:

Area	Specifics	GMC guidance
Safeguarding	Adults and children should all be considered vulnerable and have safe care appropriate to, and available in, their clinical setting.	1,2,3
Equality	Patients and colleagues should be treated fairly, with respect, and irrespective of personal beliefs or biases.	1,4
Confidentiality	Patient information should be treated confidentially, within the confines of local systems. Patient images should not be taken, or used, without appropriate consent and should not be disseminated via social media without permission.	1,5,6,7
Probity	You must be honest in all financial and commercial dealings. You must not ask for, or accept, any inducements that affect patient care.	1,8

References

1. [Good Medical Practice](#) (2024) GMC, London
2. [Our safeguarding policy](#) (2019) GMC, London
3. [Protecting children and young people. The responsibilities of all doctors](#) (2013) GMC, London
4. [Personal beliefs and medical practice](#) (2013) GMC, London
5. [Confidentiality: good practice in handling patient information](#) (2017) GMC, London
6. [Making and using visual and audio recordings of patients](#) (2011) GMC, London
7. [Doctors use of social media content](#) (2013) GMC, London
8. [Financial and commercial arrangements and conflicts of interest](#) (2013) GMC, London