



## 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'](#)<sup>1</sup>. 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 a doctor registered with the GMC<sup>1</sup>

Patients must be able to trust doctors with their lives and health. To justify that trust you must show respect for human life and make sure your practice meets the standards expected of you in four domains:

### **Knowledge, skills and performance**

- Make the care of your patient your first concern.
- Provide a good standard of practice and care.
- Keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date.
- Recognise and work within the limits of your competence.

### **Safety and quality**

- Take prompt action if you think that patient safety, dignity or comfort is being compromised.
- Protect and promote the health of patients and the public.

### **Communication, partnership and teamwork**

- Treat patients as individuals and respect their dignity.
- Treat patients politely and considerately.
- Respect patients' right to confidentiality.
- Work in partnership with patients.
- Listen to, and respond to, their concerns and preferences.
- Give patients the information they want or need in a way they can understand.
- Respect patients' right to reach decisions with you about their treatment and care.
- Support patients in caring for themselves to improve and maintain their health.
- Work with colleagues in the ways that best serve patients' interests.

### **Maintaining trust**

- Be honest and open and act with integrity.
- Never discriminate unfairly against patients or colleagues.
- Never abuse your patients' trust in you or the public's trust in the 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
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Adults and children should all be considered vulnerable and have safe care appropriate to, and available in, their clinical setting.	<a href="#">1,2,3</a>
<b>Equality</b>	Patients and colleagues should be treated fairly, with respect, and irrespective of personal beliefs or biases.	<a href="#">1,4</a>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<p>Patient information should be treated confidentially, within the confines of local systems.</p> <p>Patient images should not be taken, or used, without appropriate consent and should not be disseminated via social media without permission.</p>	<a href="#">1,5,6,7</a>
<b>Probity</b>	<p>You must be honest in all financial and commercial dealings.</p> <p>You must not ask for, or accept, any inducements that affect patient care.</p>	<a href="#">1,8</a>

## References

1. [Good Medical Practice](#) (2013) 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