

IPRO 309 Code of Ethics (Spring 2008)

**Overarching Standard:** To produce high-high-quality educational materials for Orthotics and Prosthetics (O & P) technicians and students, while ~~e~~maintaining whilst maintaining the principles of honesty, integrity, and forthrightness both with the vested stakeholders of the project and the O & P community at large.

**Law:** ~~(HIPAA & Colombia laws)~~

**Canon:** Project members shall respect the legal frameworks of both the United States, embodied by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and of the Republic of Colombia, regarding patient privacy and confidentiality and medical practice.

**Pressure:** Simplify treatment process and avoid what are perceived to be excessive or time-consuming measures.

**Pressure:** Reveal patient information for personal gain or through carelessness.

**Risk:** Educational modules may leave ambiguity or improper instructions for proper handling of confidential or identifying patient information.

**Measure:** All patient information, particularly case studies, will be anonymized before inclusion in project materials.

**Contracts:** ~~(Agreements with JJC & Centro Don Bosco – CURRENTLY NONE)~~

**Canon:** The precepts of contract law shall not be violated either by omission or action. Project members shall not enter into contractual agreements either directly or through implication without proper approval.

**Pressure:** Successful project products may inspire further requests of the project team.

**Risk:** Project members may enter into verbal or written contractual agreements.

**Risk:** Vested parties may construe discussions or interactions as contractual agreements.

**Measure:** The mission of the project will be clearly communicated to all vested parties, and no contracts shall be entered into, either in verbal or written form.

**Professional Codes:**

~~(ISPO Code of Ethics)~~

**Canon:** Project members shall abide by the code of ethics of the International Society ~~of~~for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), the international accrediting body for O & P practitioners and programs, as well as those of the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (ABC) and National Commission on Orthotics and Prosthetics Education (NCOPE).

**Pressure:** In order to meet deadlines, members may be tempted to “cut corners” or otherwise perform at less than their utmost.

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*Pressure:* Due to the nature of collaborative effort, individuals may feel underappreciated or misused by the team.

*Risk:* Members may produce sub-standard products as a result of poor motivation or active sabotage.

*Measure:* All project members shall be provided with, become familiar with, and abide by the relevant professional codes of ethics (ISPO, ABC, NCOPE). Compliance shall be measured via periodic discussion and reinforcement by team members.

**Industry Standards:** ~~(ABCOP?)~~

*Canon:* Members must abide by and recognize the standards for both the O & P community and the medical community at large. Members are not medical professionals or doctors, and will not impersonate such.

*Pressure:* Involved parties may expect project members to act in the role of medical professionals.

*Pressure:* Members may be motivated by the desire to aid others.

*Risk:* Providing medical advice or instruction, or otherwise violating the scope of practice.

*Measure:* The scope of practice of the orthotist, and of the team members, shall be clearly delineated and understood.

**Community:** ~~(Bogota & Joliet)~~

*Canon:* Project members shall respect the communities affected by the project, both in Joliet and Bogotá.

*Pressure:* Enthusiasm or compassion to provide aid.

*Risk:* Offending local customs or imposing unwelcome foreign values on the local communities.

*Risk:* Ignoring community concerns about O & P treatment.

*Measure:* The project will draw upon established connections with local communities, as well as past experience, to respect community values. This includes meeting directly with key community members.

**Personal Relations:**

*Canon:* Solid personal relations with members of involved institutions are essential, as well as those amongst project members. To that end, members shall at all times respect the importance of forthright relations both within the project and without. Members of outside institutions, such as ~~(Centro Don Bosco, Joliet Junior College, and Laboroterio-Laboratorio Gillete, -e-)~~ shall be treated with respect at all times, and cooperated with to the full extent permissible by other guidelines.

*Pressure:* Excessive focus on internal activities.

*Risk:* Insularity may cause external parties to feel slighted or disregarded.

*Risk:* Excessive focus on external parties may hamper work on project goals.

*Measure:* The use of Work Breakdown Structures shall carefully balance the internal needs of the project with the needs of external parties.

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**Moral Values:** ~~{Hippocratic Oath}~~

*Canon:* Project members shall abide by the values common to all medical and allied health practitioners. Members shall at all times maintain honest and transparent relations with other members of the team, not unfairly dividing responsibility or seeking to accept credit for the work of others.

*Pressure:* Members may feel overburdened by the project, ~~or~~ especially in comparison to others.

*Risk:* Information may be plagiarized or copied without attribution.

*Risk:* Key information may be omitted; incomplete or improper statements may lead to false or misleading information in final products.

*Measure:* Team-building activities, open communication, and proper team management will ensure appropriate responsibilities and recognition for each team member.

Approved by: Kevin P. Meade, Lead Faculty, March 7, 2008