# Los Angeles County Prehospital Code of Ethics

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System consists of health care professionals that include EMT's, paramedics, nurses, physicians, educators, and administrators. This Code defines our ethical responsibilities and beliefs in the following principles for guiding practice…

## Respect

- Recognize, acknowledge, listen, and encourage all members of the health care team
- Uphold and maintain patient confidentiality and privacy
- Honor the patient's rights and autonomy to make decisions regarding their medical care

## Caring

- Provide professional, compassionate, and competent care to all patients
- Advocate for the patient's care needs
- Participate and support the advancement of the EMS system through education, training , and continuous quality improvement
- Support prehospital care research to validate, improve and promote evidence-based practice

## Fairness

- Provide competent medical care to all persons with compassion and respect for human dignity regardless of nationality, race, creed, religion, sex, status, or financial considerations
- Ensure justice by treating all individuals equally and fairly
- Encourage and support impartiality in the delivery of patient care. Decisions should be absent of bias, prejudice or benefit one person over another for improper reasons but based on objective criteria

## Integrity

- Promote honesty, truthfulness, and consistency in action and practice by all members of the health care team
- Demonstrate responsibility and accountability by maintaining licensure/certification, operating within one's scope of practice, and providing thorough documentation
- Inspire fidelity by adhering to professional code(s) of ethics, following policies and procedures, ensuring team members are respectful, competent and capable of performing duties, and honoring agreements with patients and colleagues
- Maintain trustworthiness and excellence in the delivery of patient care and medical practice

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