



Code of professional practice for genetic counsellors in Europe

The genetic counsellor will:

1. Respect the human rights of the client, in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organisation.
2. Work in accordance with the legal and ethical requirements of the setting and country in which he or she practices.
3. Enable equality of access to services, without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, belief, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation.
4. Protect confidential information obtained in the course of professional practice and obtain the client's consent to disclose information to other professionals and/or family members.
5. Offer accurate information on the range of options available to clients, while respecting the right of the client to make decisions based on their own beliefs and values.
6. Enable clients to make informed decisions, free from coercion.
7. Avoid any abuse of the professional relationship with clients.
8. Maintain clear, contemporaneous and accurate medical records.
9. Collaborate and co-operate with colleagues to achieve standards of good clinical practice.
10. Act as an advocate for service users, as appropriate.
11. Act appropriately to report concerns about the safety of clients and/or quality of care.
12. Be aware of his or her physical, mental and emotional health and take action to prevent adverse impact on practice.
13. Participate in clinical and counselling supervision.
14. Be aware of his or her personal beliefs and limitations of expertise and refer clients as appropriate to ensure they have access to the full range of services and decision options.
15. Maintain his or her knowledge and skills through continuing professional education.