



**World Aesthetic Medicine and Surgery Certification and Care
Alliance (WAMSCCA)
Ethical Practice & Patient Safety Policy**

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World Aesthetic Medicine and Surgery Certification and Care Alliance (WAMSCCA)

Ethical Practice & Patient Safety Policy

1. Purpose

The World Aesthetic Medicine and Surgery Certification and Care Alliance (WAMSCCA) establishes this policy to ensure that all medical professionals participating in its activities uphold the highest ethical standards, prioritize patient safety, and deliver care that respects patient dignity. This policy mandates adherence to informed consent, safety protocols, cultural sensitivity, and evidence-based practices in all clinical and outreach missions. It aligns with the principles of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Declaration of Helsinki, the International Council of Nurses (ICN), and Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), ensuring that WAMSCCA's operations promote ethical practice and patient-centered care globally.

2. Policy Statement

WAMSCCA is committed to fostering an environment where ethical practice and patient safety are paramount. All medical professionals, including physicians, surgeons, and support staff, must adhere to strict ethical standards, practice within their certified scope, and prioritize patient well-being in all activities, including aesthetic medicine and reconstructive surgery. This policy ensures that patient dignity, autonomy, and cultural values are respected, and that all procedures are grounded in evidence-based practices, in line with WHO's Patient Safety Framework, the Declaration of Geneva, and the Sphere Humanitarian Standards.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all WAMSCCA activities, including clinical procedures, outreach missions, volunteer treatment camps, pro bono partnerships, and educational programs related to aesthetic medicine and reconstructive surgery. It extends to all WAMSCCA-affiliated medical professionals, volunteers, and partner organizations operating globally, ensuring consistency with international ethical and safety standards.

4. Ethical Standards for Medical Professionals

All medical professionals participating in WAMSCCA activities must adhere to the following ethical standards:

- **Practice Within Scope:** Professionals must only perform procedures within their certified scope of practice, as defined by their training, licensure, and

WAMSCCA certification standards.

- **Patient Dignity:** Treat all patients with respect, ensuring their dignity, privacy, and autonomy are upheld at all times, in alignment with WHO's ethical principles.
- **Non-Exploitation:** Refrain from exploiting patients for publicity, research, or personal gain, ensuring that patient care remains the primary focus.
- **Confidentiality:** Maintain strict confidentiality of patient information, adhering to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and WHO's health data governance principles.
- **Non-Discrimination:** Provide care without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, socioeconomic status, or any other characteristic, as per the Declaration of Helsinki.

5. Informed Consent

Informed consent is mandatory for all WAMSCCA activities involving patient care:

- Patients (or legal guardians for minors or incapacitated individuals) must provide voluntary, informed consent prior to any procedure or participation in outreach missions.
- Consent must be obtained in the patient's preferred language, using culturally appropriate communication methods, and must include a clear explanation of risks, benefits, alternatives, and potential outcomes.
- Patients must be informed of their right to withdraw consent at any time without repercussions, in line with WHO's ethical guidelines.
- Documentation of consent must be maintained securely, ensuring traceability and accountability.

6. Patient Safety Protocols

WAMSCCA mandates strict adherence to patient safety protocols to minimize risks and ensure high-quality care:

- **Evidence-Based Practices:** All procedures must be grounded in evidence-based practices, supported by peer-reviewed research and WHO's Essential Surgical Care guidelines.
- **Sterility and Infection Control:** Adhere to WHO's infection prevention and control standards, including proper sterilization of equipment, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe disposal of medical waste.
- **Pre-Procedure Assessment:** Conduct thorough pre-procedure assessments to evaluate patient suitability, including medical history, allergies, and psychological readiness, following WHO's Patient Safety Checklist.

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Ensure that all clinical and outreach missions are equipped with emergency protocols, including access to resuscitation equipment and trained personnel, as per the Sphere Humanitarian Standards.
- **Post-Procedure Care:** Provide follow-up care, including monitoring for complications, pain management, and rehabilitation support, to ensure patient recovery and well-being.

7. Cultural Respect and Sensitivity

WAMSCCA requires all medical professionals to demonstrate cultural respect and sensitivity in their practice:

- Undergo mandatory training on cultural competence and trauma-informed care to address diverse patient backgrounds and experiences.
- Respect patients' cultural, religious, and social values, ensuring that care delivery aligns with their beliefs and preferences, in line with WHO's framework for culturally sensitive care.
- Engage local community leaders and translators to facilitate communication and build trust, particularly in humanitarian outreach missions.
- Avoid imposing external cultural norms, ensuring that all interventions are patient-centered and contextually appropriate.

8. Evidence-Based Procedures

WAMSCCA mandates that all clinical and outreach activities adhere to evidence-based procedures:

- Procedures must be supported by current, peer-reviewed medical literature and align with international guidelines, such as those from WHO and the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS).
- New or experimental procedures must undergo ethical review by WAMSCCA's Medical Ethics Committee and receive explicit patient consent with full disclosure of risks.
- Regular training and updates on evidence-based practices must be provided to all WAMSCCA-affiliated professionals to ensure alignment with the latest medical advancements.

9. Monitoring and Accountability

WAMSCCA implements the following mechanisms to ensure compliance with ethical practice and patient safety standards:

- **Ethical Oversight:** WAMSCCA's Medical Ethics Committee reviews all clinical and outreach activities to ensure adherence to ethical standards.

- **Safety Audits:** Conduct regular audits of clinical missions to verify compliance with safety protocols, infection control, and patient care standards.
- **Incident Reporting:** Establish a mandatory incident reporting system for adverse events, near misses, or ethical violations, with investigations conducted by an independent review panel.
- **Patient Feedback:** Collect anonymized patient feedback to assess satisfaction, cultural respect, and overall experience, using findings to improve future missions.

10. Violations and Disciplinary Actions

Violations of this policy, such as practicing outside one's scope, failing to obtain informed consent, or compromising patient safety, will result in the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of the professional's participation in WAMSCCA activities.
- Investigation by WAMSCCA's Ethics Committee, with a focus on patient impact and procedural failures.
- Potential revocation of WAMSCCA certification and permanent expulsion from WAMSCCA programs for severe or repeated violations.
- Notification to relevant regulatory authorities if the violation poses a risk to patient safety or public trust.

11. Policy Review and Adaptation

This policy will be reviewed biennially (every 24 months) or as needed to reflect:

- Updates to WHO guidelines, international ethical standards, or patient safety protocols.
- Feedback from patients, practitioners, and stakeholders to enhance ethical practice and safety measures.
- Emerging best practices in aesthetic medicine, reconstructive surgery, and humanitarian healthcare delivery.

Revisions will be proposed by WAMSCCA's Policy Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors, with consultations from international health and ethics experts.

12. Approval and Implementation

- **Approved by:** WAMSCCA Board of Directors
- **Effective Date:** May 15, 2025
- **Next Review Date:** May 15, 2027