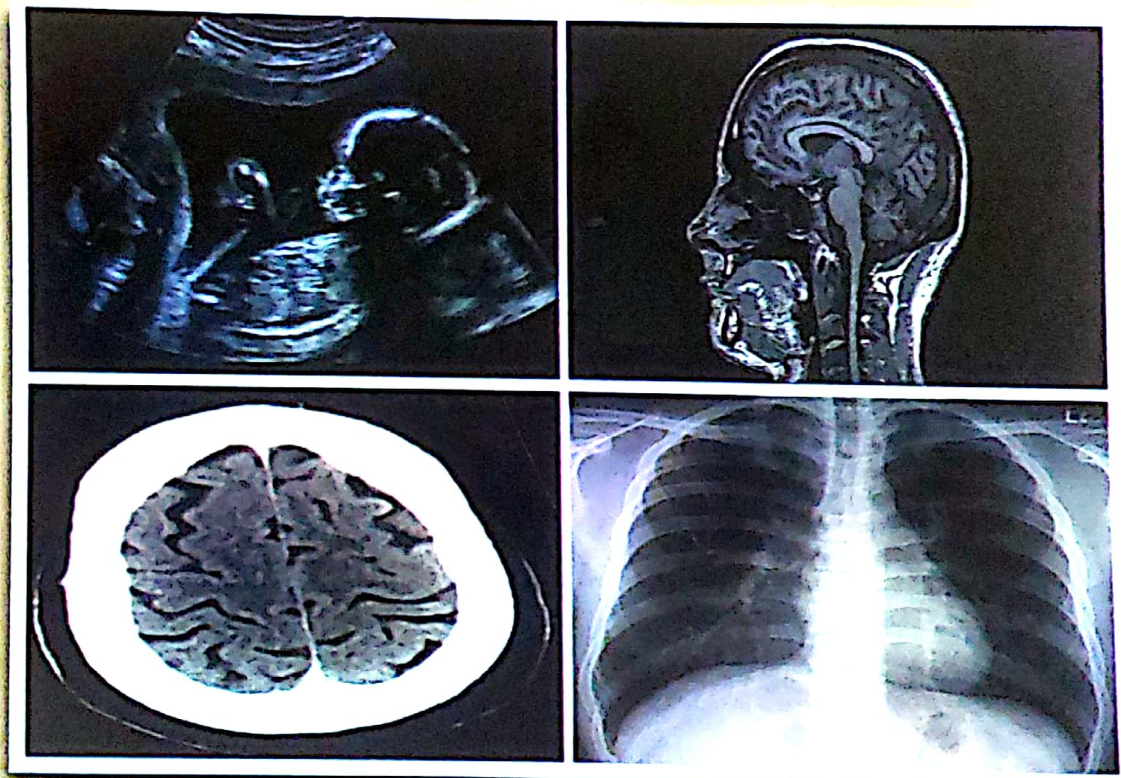




# Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics *for* RADIOGRAPHERS



Issued by  
The Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria

*Revised Edition 2020*

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# **THE RADIOGRAPHERS REGISTRATION BOARD** **OF NIGERIA:**

## **Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics** ***(Revised Edition, 2020)***

This Code of Conduct is issued by Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria (RRBN), established by CAP R1 LFN (2004), formerly Decree No. 42 of 1987. Part IV of this Decree, now CAP R1 LFN (2004), discusses extensively the issues of Discipline, from which this code of conduct is necessitated.

This code of conduct is aimed at providing advice and guidance on all issues relating to the official and unofficial conducts of a registered Radiographer in Nigeria. This document therefore offers guidelines on the conducts of a Radiographer. All Radiographers must comply to this code, a violation of which may attract the invitation of the Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria (RRBN) and the Disciplinary Committee of the RRBN.

The code is divided for purposes of description and reference into Eleven (11) articles. Each article is further subdivided into paragraphs.

- |            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Article 1  | - | Defines a registered Radiographer in Nigeria and his/her obligation. |
| Article 2  | - | General and ethical responsibilities of a Radiographer.              |
| Article 3  | - | The relationship between the Radiographer and the patient.           |
| Article 4  | - | The basic rights of the patient.                                     |
| Article 5  | - | The Radiographer's relationship with the employer.                   |
| Article 6  | - | Radiographer to Radiographer relationship.                           |
| Article 7  | - | The relationship of a Radiographer to other health professionals.    |
| Article 8  | - | The role of the Radiographer towards the public and environment.     |
| Article 9  | - | The Radiographer working in the private sector.                      |
| Article 10 | - | List of misconducts and unethical practice.                          |
| Article 11 | - | Deals with miscellaneous issues.                                     |

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## **Article 1**

### **REGISTERED RADIOGRAPHER**

1. A Radiographer is registered if he/she is :-
  - a) Fully registered with the Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria (RRBN).
  - b) Temporarily registered with the RRBN.
  - c) Provisionally registered with the RRBN
2. A Radiographer registered in Nigeria shall uphold and comply with this Code.

## **Article 2**

### **GENERAL DUTIES AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A Radiographer shall:**

1. Be accountable for his/her work, and be able to practise safely and effectively within the scope of training, knowledge and competence.
2. Avail himself or herself of the opportunities provided by the continuous education programmes of the Board (RRBN), and those approved by the Board for Continuous Professional Development to improve knowledge, competence and skill.
3. Make known to the appropriate authority any conscientious objection he/she holds on any issue or matter relating to his/her professional practice.
4. Competently carry out alternative examinations or procedures or treatment where in his/her professional judgment, the original request

was inappropriate to the patient's condition and the clinical history provided.

5. Be free to exercise his/her professional judgement to refuse to accept a request for examination where the request is not :-
  - i. Appropriate.
  - ii. Justifiable.
  - iii. Legitimate
6. Be committed to keeping the radiation dose to the patient as low as reasonably practicable, consistent with the diagnostic and treatment needs of the patient.
7. Not solicit for gift, favour, hospitality and any gratification that might influence his/her professional judgement.
8. Not be under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs when on duty or likely to be called to duty.
9. Not abscond from Hospital/Centre of Internship. He/She must obtain Board's approval to leave or to change the place of Internship.
10. Not falsify records.
11. For all purposes comply with the laws of the country, state or local council where he/she works and shall have due regard to and respect for the culture and customs of the area.
12. Provide written opinions on investigations and examinations carried out.
13. Provide reports on medical ultrasound examinations, provided he/she is a Sonographer certified by the RRBN.
14. Not to be involved in training of persons that are not students, interns or trainees from institutions approved by Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria.

15. Ensure that when rendering independent professional services, any advertising is honest, accurate and lawful, and does not misrepresent the Radiography profession.
16. Not take more than one full time job at a time.
17. Generally, have the right to administer intramuscular and intravenous injections, provided that he/she has been properly trained to provide that service.
18. Contribute to the education of Radiographers (students, interns and trainees).

### **Article 3**

## **RADIOGRAPHER'S DUTIES TO THE PATIENT**

**1. The Radiographer owes the patient a duty of care and confidentiality which include:-**

- a) To hold in confidence any information relating to the patient's condition or state, obtained from or during a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.
- b) To exercise due caution in passing information to the patient or his/her relations regarding the outcome of the procedure(s) carried out on the patient.
- c) Not to disclose such information to any third party except with the clear consent of the patient

Or

- d) Where there is a legal requirement to divulge such an information, it should only be given following a written permission from the Radiographer's employer or any authority acting in that capacity.
- e) To adhere strictly to Institutional/Departmental protocol, and established regulations/Helsinki Declaration, when conducting Teaching/Research, involving Patient or their data.

## 2. The Radiographer shall

- a) Not abuse any privileged relationship with the patient or a privileged access to his/her property.
- b) Not coerce patient into sexual relationship or use their position to exploit them emotionally, financially and socially.
- c) Have due regard to the socio-cultural and religious belief of the patient.
- d) At all times act to promote and safeguard the well-being and interests of the patient, especially in terms of radiation protection, infection control and general health and safety.
- e) Ensure that the patient's condition or safety is not placed at any risk consequent upon the Radiographer's action or omission.
- f) Effectively communicate with the patient and ensure clarity/understanding by:
  - i) Introducing himself/herself by name.
  - ii) Explaining the procedure to the patient and ensuring that the patient understands the benefit and risk involved in the procedure.

- iii) Obtaining consent and confidence.
- iv) Protecting patient's privacy and provide chaperon where necessary.

#### *Article 4*

### **PATIENTS' RIGHTS**

1. The Radiographer shall protect, respect and promote the fundamental rights of the patient which include:-
  - a) Dignity and privacy of the patient and his/her right to be correctly addressed.
  - b) Right to have the identity of the Radiographer disclosed to him or her before, during or after the procedure.
  - c) Right to be properly informed about the procedure and any follow up.
  - d) Right to consent to, or refuse any procedure or treatment. In this case, the attending Radiographer shall report this to his/her superior.
  - e) Right to report any sexual or physical molestation or theft of his/her property.



## RADIOGRAPHERS' RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EMPLOYER

### 1. The Radiographer shall:-

- a) Obey all lawful directives of the employer.
- b) Decline all directives considered unlawful whether from a professional point of view or otherwise.
- c) Give honest professional advice.
- d) Refuse to train or give instructions to anybody who is not a Radiographer or a trainee in an RRBN recognized or approved programme.
- e) Always demonstrate appropriate level of proficiency commensurate with his/her level or status.
- f) Pay due regard to the responsible deployment of resources which include human, financial and environmental.

### 2. The Employer shall:

- a. Engage only Radiographers with current practising license from Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria.
- b. Provide enabling working environment for the Radiographers to practise effectively.
- c. Encourage Radiographers to participate in Continuous Professional Development programmes.
- d. Provide acceptable condition of service to the Radiographer.

- e. Provide necessary radiation protection devices.
- f. Not compel Radiographers to train non-Radiographers.
- g. Feel free to report any professional misconduct by Radiographer working in his/her facility to Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria

### **Article 6**

## **RADIOGRAPHER TO RADIOGRAPHER RELATIONSHIP**

### **A Radiographer shall:**

- i) Work in cooperation with other Radiographers.
- ii) Exhibit mutual loyalty (*Esprit de corps*) in all situations, except in cases of unethical practices and fraud.
- iii) Accord all due respect to their senior colleagues and acknowledge their seniority always, whether in a professional or social event and avoid disrespectful words, conducts or actions.
- iv) Avoid use of verbal abuses/insulting words and/or libelous publications on colleagues.
- v) Not give false and malicious information about a Radiographer to the RRBN.
- vi) On being privy to any act or information appearing to him/her that it amounts to professional misconduct or practice by another Radiographer, consider it as his/her duty to advise that other radiographer in the first instance, and file a report to the Board (RRBN) if advice is not heeded.

- vii) Not exploit the power of this provision for personal gains or vendetta against a Radiographer colleague.
- viii) Not make mockery of and or ridicule a Radiographer colleague(s), especially in the presence of other members of the health team, clients/patients and the public.
- ix) Avoid vicarious liabilities by delegating functions and duties to subordinates according to their proficiencies and competence, and supervising them accordingly.
- x) Contribute to the education of Radiography students, interns and trainees from institutions approved by Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria.
- xi) Not be involved in assault, battery or fighting

### **Article 7**

## **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH PROFESSION**

### **The Radiographer shall:**

- i) Relate with other members of the health profession with dignity, mutual respect and responsibility.
- ii) Always exercise authority and demonstrate sufficient knowledge in matters relating to Radiography.
- iii) Recognize the established lines of authority and protect the Radiography profession, while relating with other healthcare professionals.
- iv) Liaise with referrers in matters relating to the health benefits of patient,

especially about the relevant applications of Radiographic imaging modalities and processes, and when clinical requests are at variance with evidence-based practices.

- v) Refrain from portraying other professionals in bad light and shall not undermine their roles.
- vi) Maximize/explore opportunities to collaborate with other professionals for knowledge gain, where practicable.
- vii) Demonstrate ability to understand, analyse and act upon information from other healthcare professionals in order to maximize health gain, while minimizing risk to the patient.
- viii) Ensure adequate radiation protection of all members of the health team.

## **Article 8**

### **RADIOGRAPHERS' DUTIES TO THE PUBLIC/ENVIRONMENT**

#### **The Radiographer shall:**

- i) Be aware of applicable health and safety legislation, and any relevant safety policies and procedures, and act in accordance with these.
- ii) Deal responsibly with radiation use and be guided by the ALARP Principle, and limit unnecessary radiation exposure.
- iii) Treat all individuals with respect, dignity and without discrimination, providing care irrespective of nationality, language, race, colour, culture, social or ethnic origin, gender, marital and family status, religion, political affiliation, age, type of illness, mental or physical ability or attributes.

- iv) Protect the environment by assuring and ensuring adequate and appropriate disposal of medical waste.
- v) Ensure a safe environment and take steps to minimize exposure to potential risks (for example, risk of nosocomial infection, radiation risk, strong magnetic fields).

### **Article 9**

## **RADIOGRAPHER WORKING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

1. A Radiographer may enlist to work in a Radio-diagnostic centre owned by:

- a) A Radiographer or Radiographers.
- b) Non-Radiographers.

### **Provided that:**

- i. the facility is licensed by RRBN and any other regulatory authorities and equipped to ensure high quality patient care and radiation safety from imaging systems.
- ii. where the facility is not licensed by RRBN before his/her employment, the Radiographer shall ensure the commencement of licensing process of such facility by the Board.
- iii. the Radiographer shall be adequately represented in policy-making on matters pertaining to his/her practice.
- iv. the Radiographer shall practise in line with the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics as applicable to Radiographers.
- v. the Radiographer shall pay due regard to the responsible deployment of resources which include human, financial and environmental.

## Article 10:

### LIST OF MISCONDUCTS AND UNETHICAL PRACTICES FOR RADIOGRAPHERS

- a. Soliciting for gifts, favour, hospitality or any other gratification from a patient or patient's relations.
- b. Working under the influence of alcohol or narcotic substances.
- c. Involvement in training of persons that are not students, interns or trainees from institutions approved by Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria.
- d. Taking more than one full time job in private or public organizations.
- e. Involvement in unhealthy rivalry in work environment especially for owners of private diagnostic facilities.
- f. Breach of confidentiality of patient's information.
- g. Sexual molestation/advances/abuse of a patient.
- h. Involvement in a fraud or embezzlement or any financial impropriety in workplace.
- i. Negligence of all sorts in the course of professional practice.
- j. Disrespect of a senior Radiographer (seniority is determined by year of graduation before 2005 or year of induction from 2005).
- k. Slanderous and libelous actions against professional colleague.
- l. False accusation of a professional colleague.

- m. Falsification of records.
- n. Abscondment from place of internship without approval by Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria.
- o. Denigration of a colleague.
- p. Assault, battery or fighting.
- q. Engaging in radiography practice without licence from RRBN.
- r. Any other unwholesome conduct unbecoming of a Radiographer.

**Article 11:**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Other than minor traffic violations, any Radiographer found guilty of a criminal offence by any court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria or elsewhere shall be deemed by RRBN to have committed an act of gross misconduct which is unbecoming of a Radiographer.
2. A Radiographer accused of professional misconduct which is referred to RRBN may face the Disciplinary Committee of the Board, after due investigation.
3. A Radiographer found guilty by the Disciplinary Committee of the Board may:
  - i. lose his or her right to practice for a stipulated period or
  - ii. lose his or her right to practice permanently or

- iii. face any other punishment as stipulated in Section 23 of the Act, Cap R1 LFN 2004.
4. A Radiographer must maintain an exemplary lifestyle, must not be involved in an infamous conduct and must be well dressed in and out of office.
5. The Radiographer or a student undergoing training in Radiography shall, while on duty or in classrooms, laboratories, seminar rooms, examination rooms or generally in a hospital's clinical area, comply with the dress code issued by this Board, from time to time.

**The dress code provides as follows:**

- i. standard scrub, white overall and any other suitable attire as recommended by the Board from time to time.
- ii. shirt and necktie on pair of trousers for males.
- iii. smart tops (e.g. blouse or ladies shirt) on long skirt (i.e. skirt reaching below the knee but above the ankle) for females.
- iv. smart tops (e.g. blouses or ladies shirt) on female-styled pair of trousers for females.
- v. smart gown for females.
- vi. the female may use the head-tie, provided its length is moderate.



## Supplement ( Radiographer's Professional Oath)

I .....have come to recognise and accept my role as a RADIOGRAPHER and therefore hereby solemnly and truthfully pledge to devote my professional life to the service of mankind.

I shall perform my service and duties with dedication, devotion, dignity, discretion and honour, and have respect for the opinion of my professional colleagues and freely consult with them.

I shall consider the health of my patients above all and avoid whatever may expose them to danger.

I shall keep in confidence all information which I may obtain directly or indirectly, in the course of my professional practice concerning the life and health of people.

I shall also sustain my respect for human life at all stages and shall not use my knowledge of equipment(s), diseases, drugs, and the skill which I have acquired in any manner that is contrary to the laws of humanity.

I promise to always provide such facilities and environment which will enhance the desirable growth of my service and will not engage in self-advertisement.

I publicly and freely make this oath with solemnity and honour and so HELP ME GOD.

Signature of Declarant:.....

Name(s) of Declarant:.....

.....

Date: .....

.....

**Registrar**

**Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria**

**Revised Edition 2020**

