

American Association of Tissue Banks

CODE OF ETHICS

The American Association of Tissue Banks is a professional organization dedicated to leadership, education, service, research, and integrity involving practices when interacting with professional colleagues and the public.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to adhere to the following Codes, Principles and Good Faith Practices:

- We strongly support voluntary tissue donation and informed choice. We offer public education to encourage informed decisions. We provide information regarding donation and transplantation options, and we respect the decisions of donors and donor families.
- As stewards of the gifts of donation, we are responsible for acting in accordance with the wishes of the donors and their families.
- We cooperate with colleagues to assure a coordinated approach in seeking and verifying documents of authorization and obtaining information necessary to screen all potential donors.
- We honor and treat with respect the gifts of donated human tissue and strive to optimize use in order to save lives and improve the quality of life for patients who require tissue transplants.
- We protect the confidentiality of donors, donor families and recipients, by releasing information only with proper authorization or as required to support public safety or legal obligations.
- We provide information to donor families about how their loved ones gifts were used.
- We strive to provide and maintain the highest quality of service in accordance with current scientific knowledge, established standards of care, and advancing technologies.
- We share knowledge and advances that may improve the quality, safety, and effectiveness of transplants.

- We act with the highest level of integrity and commit to fair, just, equitable, and legal standards of behavior in all relations with donor families, transplant recipients, other members of the Association, and the global community.
- We promote our programs and services in a manner that honors each donor and their bereaved family members and respects the gift of human tissue.
- To maintain public confidence in tissue banking, we assure that our relationships with healthcare professionals and our business partnerships are structured to reflect these values and the altruism on which donation is founded.
- We respond in times of need to help meet shortages of transplant tissue.
- We promote AATB standards, accreditation, and certification of personnel.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to adhere to the following Ethical Principles:

- Recover cells and tissues in a manner that respects the expectation they will be used.
- Provide tissue forms that meet the medical needs of patients and clinicians with reimbursement for services that reflects the cost of providing finished tissue allografts that are safe and of high quality.
- Treat and distribute tissue in ways that maximize usefulness to the patient community.
- Avoid distributing tissue in a discriminatory manner.
- Seek the cooperation of health care professionals in donation and recovery activities in a manner that will not diminish public confidence in donation.

All members of the American Association of Tissue Banks pledge to the following Good Faith Practices when advertising services:

- Consider carefully the public perception of the advertisement and avoid terms that cheapen the concept of the “gift of life.”
- Consider the impact of the advertisement on public confidence in tissue banking.
- Be truthful, provide accurate information, and avoid unfounded or misleading statements.
- Utilize the Code of Ethics of the AATB as a guideline, where appropriate.

- Emphasize community support for, and avoid advertisements that undermine community support of, tissue donation.

Revised and adopted June 19, 2012

Vision Statement

Extraordinary people saving and improving lives through the gift of cells and tissues.

Mission Statement

AATB honors donors, saves and improves lives by promoting the safety, quality, and availability of donated cells and tissue.