

A copy of the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners can be downloaded from:

[www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)

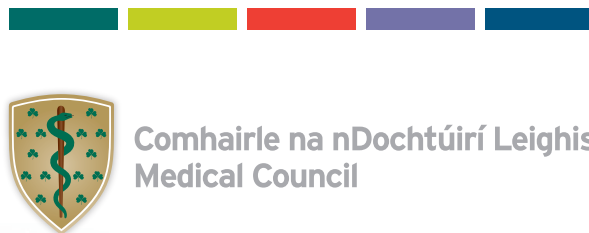


*You can also get a copy of the Guide by writing to:*

**Medical Council**

Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.  
Tel: +353 1 4983100. Fax: +353 1 4983102.  
Email: [info@mcirl.ie](mailto:info@mcirl.ie)

[www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)



An Introduction to the  
**Guide to Professional  
Conduct and Ethics  
for Registered  
Medical Practitioners**

7th Edition 2009

## What is the Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners?

The Guide assists doctors in maintaining the highest possible standards of professional conduct and ethics.

It provides guidance and information on a range of issues such as consent, confidentiality and end of life care.



## Why is the Guide of interest to patients?

The Medical Council's role is to protect the public by ensuring that doctors are competent and adhere to the highest standards of professionalism in their behaviour and relationships with patients.

It is important for patients and members of the public to read the Guide so that they are aware of these professional standards and can participate fully in their relationships with medical practitioners.

## What does the Guide say?

The Guide provides guidelines to medical practitioners in relation to Professional Conduct, Responsibilities to Patients, Medical Records & Confidentiality, Consent to Medical Treatment, and Professional Practice.

## Who wrote the Guide?

The Guide was written by the Medical Council, following public consultation. Under the Medical Practitioners Act, 2007, Section 7(2)(i) it is the responsibility of the Medical Council to give guidance on all matters related to professional conduct and ethics for registered medical practitioners. The guide has been updated by each elected Council since 1979.



## What happens if a medical practitioner breaches the Guide?

If you feel that a medical practitioner has breached the Guide and have concerns about the behaviour, conduct, practice or health of a doctor, you can contact the Medical Council. Further information is available on [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)