

By Laws: Presenters

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Under the ADA NSW Code of Ethics there are several obligations that relate to the sharing of knowledge amongst dentists. Section 30 states “Members should maintain professional competence throughout their careers by active advancement of their knowledge of scientific, clinical and technical developments” whilst Section 25 states “Members shall be willing to assist their colleagues professionally” and Section 26 “Members should be prepared to contribute to the advancement of the scientific, clinical or technical knowledge available to the profession.”

In order to disseminate knowledge among the profession members will often participate in a range of activities which can vary from a very formal course of study through to quite informal gatherings where treatment matters are discussed. Those members disseminating information both formally and informally should keep the safety of patients and the good of the profession uppermost in their mind. The following is a list of matters they should consider. It may not be complete so the ultimate test of behaviour with regard to presentations is the “reasonable member” test. In short, is it behaviour the reasonable member would think is acceptable?

1. Presenters should express opinions, make statements and present results of research or experiments in an objective and truthful manner.
2. Presenters should treat their colleagues with respect and dignity.
3. Presenters should always endeavour to improve their ability to impart their knowledge effectively.
4. When providing case examples patients’ privacy is to be respected absolutely so whenever possible they and their health information should be de-identified.
5. Patient care should never be compromised to provide demonstrations or teaching materials.
6. Any research results from human studies should only be from properly designed, ethically approved research projects and the parameters of all studies should be disclosed.
7. Presenters are entitled to independent views but should always indicate that this is their view.

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8. If commercial interests are involved in research, materials or presentation of techniques this should be disclosed and acknowledged.
9. If a presenter has any interest in any product or process this should be fully disclosed to those at the presentation. Special mention should be made if this is a financial interest.
10. The source of data or results should be provided.

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