

1. **Service:** Our surgeons are expected always to place patients' needs first.
2. **Respect:** Our surgeons are expected to treat patients, their families, visitors, students, trainees, other caregivers, and one another with respect and professional dignity.
3. **Teamwork:** Our surgeons are expected to work collaboratively in service of patient care, both as effective leaders of teams and as members of teams led by others.
4. **Excellence:** Harvard aims to provide patient care and service equivalent to the best in the world. Our surgeons are therefore expected:
  - to become board certified and maintain certification;\*
  - to monitor their outcomes and record them;
  - to make their results available for evaluation;
  - to follow prudent safety practices and guidelines for optimal patient care;
  - to achieve and maintain proficiency in the procedures they perform and in the basic set of procedures they may be called upon to perform in their specialty;
  - to limit their practice, except in an emergency, to those areas in which they have maintained proficiency; and
  - to adopt beneficial new technologies and techniques.
5. **Ethical discipline:** Our surgeons will not adopt/attempt experimental techniques and technologies outside of research ethics review and assessment, unless in an emergency.
6. **Personal responsibility to patients:** Our surgeons are expected to take full responsibility for ensuring the safe care of their patients. When unable to do so themselves, they will arrange appropriate handover or consultation with another colleague or institution. Our surgeons will take responsibility for covered patients as if they were their own.
7. **Openness:** Our surgeons are expected to communicate openly and honestly with patients and in the medical record about all aspects of their care—including the nature of any procedures to be performed, rates of complications, potential difficulties for recovery, involvement of other team members, and occurrence of mistakes and adverse events.
8. **Education:** Our surgeons are expected to devote time, effort, and skill to educating caregivers and our next generation of clinicians.
9. **Humility:** All surgeons have finite abilities. Our surgeons are therefore expected to assess when a case is beyond their or their institution's capabilities and to seek assistance and consultation accordingly.
10. **Health:** Our surgeons are expected to value and maintain their health and wellness, as well as assist colleagues with their health.
11. **Conflict of Interest:** Our surgeons are expected to maintain the knowledge, insight, and discipline required to keep the patient's interest above financial or any other conflict of interest.\*\*

\* Per institution protocol surrounding board certification requirements.

\*\* Based on the American College of Surgeons Statement on Principles. Available at: [http://www.facs.org/fellows\\_info/statements/stonprin.html](http://www.facs.org/fellows_info/statements/stonprin.html) . Accessed May 5, 2011.