

The ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies

Endorsement

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The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) endorses the ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies, arising from the Health Care in Danger project led by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and encourages its member organisations to promote their implementation and monitoring. ^{1, 2}

The principles emphasise the ethics underpinning access to and delivery of health care for all during armed conflict and other emergencies and the full implementation of International Humanitarian Law, without discrimination.

Ethical principles guide the relationship between patients, clients, carers and health care professionals; they can also be extended to volunteers and technical support staff. These principles are embodied in WCPT's Ethical Principles and accompanying policy statement on the ethical responsibilities of physical therapists and member organisations. ^{3, 4} The ICRC principles supplement these by contemplating issues such as discrimination, abuse of privileges, confidentiality, and torture.

Glossary (www.world.physio/resources/glossary)

International humanitarian law

Approval, review and related policy information	
Date adopted:	First approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019
Date for review:	Dependent on monitoring of ICRC updates
Related WCPT Policies:	WCPT Ethical Principles WCPT policy statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disaster management• Ethical responsibilities of physical therapists and member organisations• The consequences of armed violence, landmines and other weapons of war

References

1. International Committee of the Red Cross. Ethical Principles of Health Care in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Emergencies. Geneva, Switzerland; 2015. www.icrc.org/en/document/common-ethical-principles-health-care-conflict-and-other-emergencies (Access date 19 August 2019)
2. International Committee of the Red Cross. Health Care in Danger campaign. . Geneva, Switzerland: ICRC; 2015. www.icrc.org/eng/what-we-do/safeguarding-health-care/index.jsp (Access date 19 August 2019)
3. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Ethical Principles. London, UK: WCPT; 2019. www.wcpt.org/ethical-principles (Access date 13 August 2019)
4. World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Policy statement: Ethical responsibilities of physical therapists and WCPT member organisations. London, UK: WCPT; 2019. www.wcpt.org/policy/ps-ethical-responsibilities (Access date 30 August 2019)

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