

European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP Global)

Code of Conduct and Ethical Framework

Independence – Integrity – Transparency – Patient-Centred Care



1. Purpose and Scope

The European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP Global) is an independent, non-profit, professional scientific society representing oncology pharmacists and other pharmacy professionals involved in cancer care worldwide. Founded in 2000, ESOP Global is a membership-based organisation with **almost 5,000 members from 102 countries**.

ESOP Global's mission is to support optimal treatment and care for patients with cancer through the advancement of oncology pharmacy practice, education, research, and quality standards.

This Code of Conduct establishes the principles governing ESOP Global's independence, ethical behaviour, and relationships with sponsors, donors, and external partners. It ensures transparency, integrity, and compliance with applicable regulations, including eligibility criteria of the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

This Code applies to:

- ESOP governance bodies
- ESOP leadership and officers
- ESOP committees and working groups
- All ESOP activities, events, publications, and communications

2. Mission, Aims and Objectives

ESOP Global aims to develop and promote clinical and oncology pharmacy practice through:

- Education and training of oncology pharmacists and other healthcare professionals
- Safe handling, preparation, and administration of anticancer medicines
- Implementation of standardized quality management systems in oncology pharmacy
- Performing research and encouraging innovation
- Enhancing pharmaceutical patient care and counselling

ESOP Global is committed to making knowledge and achievements in cancer treatment and oncology pharmacy accessible to professionals, patients, and the public.

3. Fundamental Principles

3.1 Independence

ESOP Global operates independently from commercial, political, and sectoral interests. The society retains full autonomy over its governance, strategy, scientific activities, educational content, policies, and public positions.

3.2 Patient-Centred Mission

All ESOP Global activities are guided exclusively by the interests of patients, scientific evidence, professional standards, and ethical practice.

3.3 Integrity and Professionalism

ESOP Global promotes honest, responsible, and ethical behaviour in all interactions and collaborations.

4. Governance and Decision-Making Autonomy

- Sponsors shall have no role in ESOP governance, leadership appointments, voting rights, or decision-making.
- Sponsors shall not participate in ESOP committees, working groups, or editorial bodies.
- ESOP alone determines its:
 - Strategic objectives
 - Scientific and educational programmes
 - Guidelines, quality standards (including QUAPOS), position papers, and statements
 - Representation towards regulatory and public authorities

5. Relations with Sponsors and Donors

5.1 Permissible Support

ESOP Global may accept financial or in-kind support provided that it:

- Is documented in written agreements
- Is transparent and traceable
- Is not conditional upon outcomes, content, or positions
- Does not grant influence over ESOP activities

Support may include unrestricted educational grants, sponsorship of scientific meetings, or logistical support.

5.2 Prohibited Influence

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Influence on scientific, educational, or policy content
- Involvement in guideline or standard development
- Conditional funding linked to products or viewpoints
- Promotional control over ESOP materials

ESOP Global does not endorse specific medicinal products, technologies, or commercial services.

6. Transparency

ESOP Global shall:

- Publicly disclose sponsors and partners in an appropriate manner
- Ensure financial transparency consistent with its non-profit status
- Make this Code of Conduct publicly available

7. Conflict of Interest Management

All persons acting on behalf of ESOP Global must:

- Declare relevant financial and non-financial interests
- Update declarations regularly

Identified conflicts will be managed through appropriate mitigation measures.

8. Compliance and Oversight

Compliance with this Code is mandatory.

The ESOP governing body is responsible for interpretation, implementation, and oversight.

Breaches may result in corrective measures.

9. Review and Updates

This Code shall be reviewed periodically and updated as required.

10. Entry into Force

This Code of Conduct enters into force on January 31st, 2026 following formal adoption by the ESOP General Assembly

Annex 1

ESOP Global – Aims, Objectives and Core Activities

A. Aims and Objectives

The European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP Global) aims to advance oncology pharmacy practice and to contribute to optimal treatment and care for patients with cancer worldwide.

ESOP Global pursues this aim through the following objectives:

- To develop and promote clinical and oncology pharmacy practice
- To provide education and training for oncology pharmacists and other healthcare professionals
- To support the safe handling, preparation, administration, and disposal of anticancer medicines
- To implement and promote standardized quality management systems in oncology pharmacy practice
- To perform and support research and encourage innovation in oncology pharmacy
- To enhance pharmaceutical patient care, including patient counselling and adherence support
- To disseminate knowledge and achievements in cancer treatment and oncology pharmacy to professionals, patients, and the public

B. Core Activities

To fulfil its mission and objectives, ESOP Global undertakes the following key activities:

1. Quality Standards (QUAPOS)

ESOP Global is the developer and custodian of the **Quality Standard for the Oncology Pharmacy Service (QuapoS)**.

QUAPOS provides internationally recognised guidance for safe and high-quality oncology pharmacy services and supports harmonisation of practice across healthcare systems.

The standards are translated into multiple languages and regularly updated.

2. Education and Training

- EUSOP program for the Specialisation in Oncology Pharmacy
- Educational courses, workshops, and webinars
- Development of training programmes for oncology pharmacists and multidisciplinary teams

3. Scientific Exchange and Research

- Promotion of oncology pharmacy research and innovation
- Support for collaborative research initiatives and multicentre projects

4. Publications

- Publication of the **European Journal of Oncology Pharmacy (EJOP)**
- Development of guidelines, recommendations, and professional papers

5. Conferences and Meetings

- Organisation of the biannual European Conference of Oncology Pharmacy (ECOP)
- Scientific symposia, poster sessions, and professional networking activities

6. Safety Initiatives

- Promotion of safe handling practices for hazardous drugs
- Support for environmental contamination monitoring initiatives (e.g., MASHA project)

7. Patient-Focused Initiatives

- Projects to improve oncology patient counselling and adherence (e.g., Oral Drug project)
- Advocacy for the role of oncology pharmacists in multidisciplinary cancer care