

How do we know what is  
ethical?

# The ACM Code of Ethics

*“The ACM Code of Ethics is a collection of principles and guidelines designed to help computing professionals make ethically responsible decisions in professional practice. It translates broad ethical principles into concrete statements about professional conduct”*

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). 2020. ACM Updates Code of Ethics.

<https://www.acm.org/articles/bulletins/2018/july/new-code-of-ethics-released>

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). 2020. ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

<https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics>

# ACM Code of Ethics

## General Ethical Principles

*A computing professional should...*

- 1.1 Contribute to society and to human well-being, acknowledging that all people are stakeholders in computing.
- 1.2 Avoid harm.
- 1.3 Be honest and trustworthy.
- 1.4 Be fair and take action not to discriminate.
- 1.5 Respect the work required to produce new ideas, inventions, creative works, and computing artifacts.
- 1.6 Respect privacy.
- 1.7 Honor confidentiality.

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## Professional Responsibilities

*A computing professional should...*

- 2.1 Strive to achieve high quality in both the processes and products of professional work.
- 2.2 Maintain high standards of professional competence, conduct, and ethical practice.
- 2.3 Know and respect existing rules pertaining to professional work.
- 2.4 Accept and provide appropriate professional review.
- 2.5 Give comprehensive and thorough evaluations of computer systems and their impacts, including analysis of possible risks.
- 2.6 Perform work only in areas of competence.
- 2.7 Foster public awareness and understanding of computing, related technologies, and their consequences.
- 2.8 Access computing and communication resources only when authorized or when compelled by the public good.
- 2.9 Design and implement systems that are robustly and useably secure.

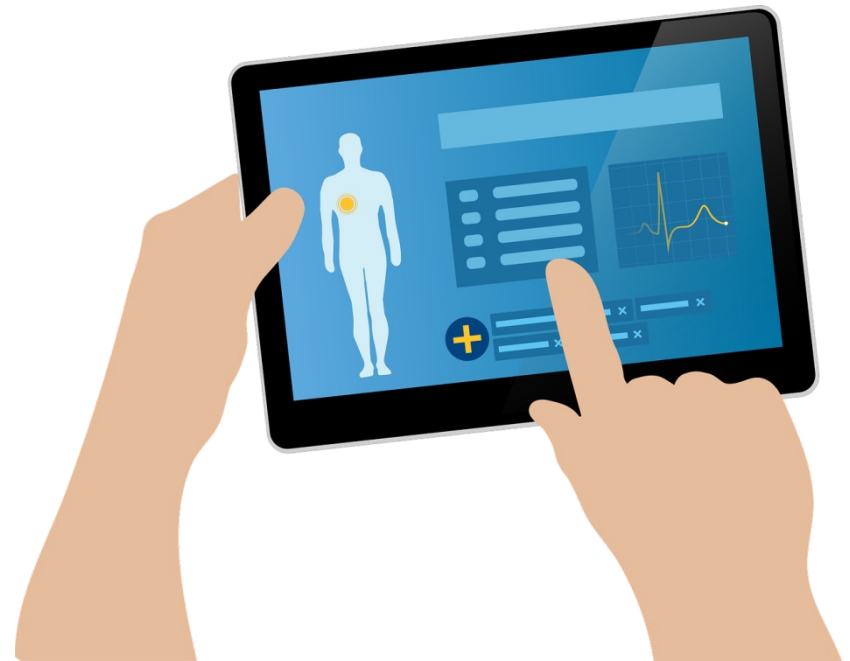
# ACM Code of Ethics

## Other Guidelines

- Section 3: Professional Leadership Principles
- Section 4: Compliance with the Code

# How do we use the code of ethics?

- Context
  - Mobile medical application
  - Working on the “treatment module”, features involving prescribing medication
- Decision: For the medication prescription feature, what default values should the team use for drug dosages? 20mg? 30mg?



# How do we use the code of ethics?

- Principle 1.2 Avoid harm.
  - Medication/Drugs can be dangerous
  - Safe and dangerous dosages differ across different types of medication
  - Some medications may cause unintended and dangerous interactions with other medications

# Using the Code

## ACM Case Studies

- <https://ethics.acm.org/code-of-ethics/using-the-code>