



All Members of the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) agree to abide by the principles set down in the [Declaration of Geneva](#) as adopted by the 2nd General Assembly of the World Medical Association in 1948 and subsequently amended and revised, most recently in 2017.

All members of GICS shall follow the [Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#).

Specifically, members of GICS should:

- At all times practice their profession with conscience and dignity
- Place the health and well-being of their patients above all other considerations
- Respect and Maintain Patient Confidentiality
- Respect colleagues and co-workers
- Provide care to any patient irrespective of age, disease or disability, creed, race, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor
- Agree not to use medical knowledge to violate human rights or civil liberties even under threat
- Maintain the utmost respect for human life

Humanitarian aid should:

- Be appropriate and responsive to the needs of the recipients
- Be in response to a local request and in close collaboration with local medical and where appropriate, government agencies
- Be designed to strengthen the knowledge and effectiveness of the local team
- Incorporate aspects of teaching and training to local medical staff and allied health professionals and be planned as part of a long-term collaborative partnership
- Based upon a knowledge of the local political and economic situation such that no member of the team should be placed unawares in a position of risk
- Based upon frank and open communication on both sides so that feedback and complaints should be encouraged and treated with respect, openness and dealt with in a timely fashion

- Take place in an environment of continuous medical education and improvement
- Use available resources in the most efficient and effective way

Effective Collaborative Partnerships for the delivery of surgical care should include:

- Preliminary discussions on aims and intentions of the partnership with the inclusion of assessable goals and outcomes
- Initial site visits to assess local physical infrastructure and manpower resources, with any deficiencies addressed prior to surgeries taking place
- Clear agreement on essential resources necessary for delivery of safe surgical care in the pre-, peri- and post-operative period
- Briefing of both parties on relevant social and cultural issues that are likely to affect a successful working relationship
- Audit of surgical outcomes to include morbidity and mortality and benchmarking of these and of functional outcome from surgery; outcomes should be published with the local team maintaining ownership of the data and intellectual property
- Informed consent to patients and/or their families or carers with written and verbal information provided in the appropriate language or dialect with the use of translators where necessary
- The adoption of the WHO Surgical Checklist to encourage good and clear communication within the surgical team, no surgical procedure taking place if any essential factor is absent
- The delivery of surgical intervention only by an appropriately trained surgeon or, in respect to those in training, under the close supervision of an appropriately trained surgeon
- The delivery of anaesthetic and nursing care should be by appropriately trained staff
- Close supervision of visiting trainees with preference always given to the teaching of local rather than visiting trainees
- Careful and ethical management of any financial transactions between visiting surgeons, host and patient
- Sustainable delivery of disposable items and donation of equipment with clear strategy for its servicing, repair and maintenance
- Use of local reusable items and resources where appropriate
- Planned delivery of clinical care, education and training in a long-term and sustainable fashion
- Engagement, where appropriate, with local administrative or governmental bodies to improve and develop facilities and manpower and contribute to the development of National Surgical Plans