

# **CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**



# Message from Leadership

The foundation of our mission relies on every member of our community to be committed to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

To meet this challenge, we have a corporate compliance program that is designed to set standards that uphold our vision while fully complying with all the laws and regulations we work under.

Each member of Mary Free Bed's workforce brings the Code of Ethical Conduct to life as we understand and apply these principles to every duty.

As CEO, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and our guiding Mary Free Bed Guild we fully endorse the Compliance Program. It demonstrates our commitment to carry out our mission with the utmost goal of doing the right thing every step of the way.



Kent Riddle, CEO

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital

Thank you on behalf of the entire MFB community!

# Our Mission, Vision, and Values Drive our Code of Ethical Conduct

**OUR MISSION** Restoring hope and freedom through rehabilitation.

**OUR VISION** To be a national leader in high-value rehabilitation and post-acute care and to develop an integrated system of care throughout the Midwest.

# OUR DIVERSITY VISION

Diversity is the ways we differ individually, interpersonally and organizationally. Understanding diversity involves the recognition of cultural and other differences and traditions by identifying and empathizing with differing beliefs and behaviors. Mary Free Bed will use the strength of these differences to improve services to its community.

Mary Free Bed values diversity among the patients, families and communities it serves. Creativity and sensitivity to individual needs and differences are valued.

Mary Free Bed values diversity among its staff. Staff who share our organizational values are recruited from all areas of the workforce. Mary Free Bed fosters an environment that embraces differences by enhancing the staff's knowledge and experience. Our staff will serve all patients, families and each other with dignity and respect.

# **OUR VALUES**

In order to restore hope and freedom, we'll: Work collaboratively and innovatively Include people whose diversity reflects all those we serve Be Truthful and respectful Heal with our hands and treat with our hearts

Approach our work WITH JOY!

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# INTRODUCTION

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital ("MFB") workforce including all employees, volunteers, subsidiaries, and affiliates must conduct its business truthfully, ethically and within all state and federal healthcare mandates. At its heart, our reputation is the collection of our conduct and behavior. Therefore, every member of the organization must conduct themselves to the highest standards of moral, legal and ethical behavior.

Each member of the MFB organization must follow the Code of Ethical Conduct and Corporate Compliance Program. Our business partners are an extension of our organization and are expected to act in a manner that embodies the spirit of our Code of Ethical Conduct.

The Code of Ethical Conduct does not cover all potential issues. Employees should use good judgment when making decisions not specifically addressed by this Code. To help employees, guidance is provided in Mary Free Beds' policies and procedures and there is an open door to our leadership and compliance team to assist with questions or concerns at any time.

Be accountable for your actions. Violating our Code of Ethical Conduct, applicable laws, or our company policies is grounds for corrective action, up to and including dismissal.

## **REPORTING CONCERNS**

You do not have to be sure that you are right to raise concerns about potential violations of the Code of Ethical Conduct, policies, procedures, laws, or regulations. The compliance team will investigate all good faith reports of possible misconduct.

Failure to report potential misconduct violates the code of conduct.

4 Ways to Report Compliance Concerns		
1. Immediate Leader	4. Compliance Hotline	
2. Higher Level Manager/Director/VP	616-840-8706 Confidential and Anonymous (if desired)	
3. Compliance Officer		
Jennifer McWain 616-840-8173 or x 58173 Jennifer.mcwain@maryfreebed.com		

# Zero Tolerance for Retaliation

If you ask a question, report possible misconduct, or take part in an investigation of an ethics and compliance matter, you are complying with our Code of Ethical Conduct and doing the right thing. Under no circumstances will retaliation against you be tolerated. Retaliation can take many forms, from being unfairly dismissed, to being the target of bullying or derogatory comments in social media. We take all claims of retaliation seriously, investigating each one thoroughly and taking appropriate action. We consider acts of retaliation to be acts of misconduct which, if substantiated, could result in disciplinary action up to, and including, dismissal.

# SUPPORT EACH OTHER

# Standards of Behavior:

This set of standards was written by a MFB employee task force and adopted by the entire community as we believe the true measure of how we view our work starts with how we treat each other and those around us. These standards help us achieve the Best Patient Experience, the Best Employee Relations and the Best Community Experience.

#### A. CARE: I will

- a) Help patients and visitors find their way by escorting and/or finding someone who is able to assist
- b) Show concern and empathy in every interaction
- c) Remain calm and caring at all times

#### B. COMMUNICATION: I will

- a) Be intentional to acknowledge others and greet them with a smile at all times
- b) Interact with patients using AIDET:
  - 1) Acknowledge the patient
  - 2) Introduce myself by name and role
  - 3) Explain **D**uration
  - 4) Explanation of services and results
  - 5) Thank them
- c) Communicate in a manner that reflects caring, dignity, compassion and promotes a positive work environment
- d) Communicate at eye level
- e) Give feedback that builds confidence, recognizes accomplishments and encourages others to overcome challenges
- f) Collaborate and problem-solve together, assuming the good intentions of others
- g) Adhere to Mary Free Bed policies on phone and email etiquette
- C. RESPECT: I will
  - a) Ask permission to enter before going into a patient's room or a co-worker's workspace
  - b) Ask "is there anything else I can help you with?" after every encounter
  - c) Show support for my co-workers by being punctual and ready to work
  - d) Listen carefully during all interactions: I will not assume I already know
  - e) Have awareness of my surroundings and those that may be affected by my behaviors or actions
  - f) Begin and end on time for meetings and appointments and provide a timed agenda
- D. PROFESSIONALISM: I will
  - a) Demonstrate professionalism in appearance and actions
  - b) Wear nametag and keep visible at chest level
  - c) Speak positively of Mary Free Bed and co-workers
  - d) Be accountable/follow through on what I say I am going to do
  - e) Be the best I can be with patients and my co- workers all day, every day
  - f) Actively participate in achieving individual, departmental and organizational goals
  - g) Take initiative to continuously enhance skills and expertise
  - h) Be flexible and embrace change, knowing that change for improvement is vital to our success
- E. SAFETY AND QUALITY: I will
  - a) Address safety issues immediately by attending to them myself and/or asking for help
  - b) Actively maintain a clean and safe environment
  - c) Routinely explore best practices and new ways to be more effective, efficient and safe
  - d) Adhere to Mary Free Bed infection control policies, including washing in and washing out
  - e) Support and champion a culture of safety in my work at Mary Free Bed

# Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying

MFB prohibits discrimination, harassment and bullying in any form – verbal, physical, sexual or other offensive behavior.

## Fairness & Equal Opportunity

We believe that everyone should be treated with fairness, respect, and dignity. MFB is an equal opportunity employer. MFB values diversity and inclusion among patients, families, and staff. We are committed to following all laws and regulations concerning non-discriminatory employment practice and providing reasonable accommodations for team members and job applicants with disabilities.

# Safety, Health, and the Environment

MFB is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for you, patients, and visitors to our facilities. We are also committed to wisely managing and sustaining natural resources and minimizing the impact of our operations on the Earth. These commitments are met only through your cooperation. Each of us has a responsibility to:

- Follow safe operating procedures
- Guard your own and your fellow employees' health and safety

**Hazardous Waste**: MFB must follow numerous laws enforced by federal, state and local agencies concerning the handling, release, reporting, transporting and disposal of hazardous materials/waste. It is our policy to obey these laws and to cooperate with inspection and enforcement personnel. You are encouraged to report any conditions that you believe to be unsafe, unhealthy or hazardous to the environment to Plant Services or Housekeeping immediately.

**Weapons**: Weapons are not permitted at any time while on any property owned, leased or controlled by MFB, including anywhere business is conducted. Weapons include, but are not limited to, guns, knives or swords with blades over four inches in length, explosives, and any chemical which purpose is to cause harm to another person.

**Alcohol and Drugs**: Consumption of alcohol, drugs, or any substance that impairs your job performance is strictly prohibited while you are on the job. If a leader has reasonable suspicion to believe that an employee's job performance is affected by any substance the leader may request an alcohol and/or drug screening. A reasonable suspicion may be based on objective symptoms such as the employee's appearance, behavior, or speech.

# PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

# Maintain Confidentiality of Patient Information and Records

The HIPAA Privacy Rule gives individuals a right to know the privacy practices of their health care providers, and to know their privacy rights with respect to their personal health information (PHI). MFB provides our patients with a clear explanation of these rights and practices. All employees are required to maintain the privacy of every patient's PHI. If you have questions regarding use or disclosure of PHI please contact the Privacy Officer or HIPAA Security officer.

- Know who is and is not permitted to access confidential or otherwise protected information.
- Prevent unauthorized disclosures of confidential information
- Safeguard usernames and passwords
- Access, use, and share only the minimum information necessary to complete your job duties
- Never leave confidential or protected information unattended—paper, computer or any other device.

# **Public Communications & Social Media**

Social media refers to online communities and personal blogs in which users post information, personal messages and other content.

• Do not post protected health information (PHI).

• Do not post pictures of patients or any of their support members (family, friends, caregivers or others).

• Do not speak on behalf of Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital unless authorized by MFB External Relations Department personnel to do so. We need a clear consistent voice when providing information to the public, including the media. Requests for information should be referred to the External Relations department.

• Do not engage in online social relationships with current or former patients unless an in-person friendship predates the healthcare relationship.

- Do not answer health related questions on social networking sites.
- Do not use your MFB work email on social networking sites.
- Do not post comments of any kind about current or former patients. This applies even if the individual's name is not mentioned.

• Do be professional, use good judgment, be accurate and be honest in what you say.

**Boundaries and the Healthcare Worker:** All Healthcare workforce members have a responsibility to delineate and maintain boundaries. The healthcare provider should work within the therapeutic relationship. All employees should examine any boundary crossing, be aware of its potential implications and avoid crossing. The employee should avoid situations where he or she has a personal or outside MFB business relationship with the patient served. Post-service relationships between patients and healthcare providers are complex because the patient may need additional services. It may be difficult to determine when the provider–patient relationship is completely terminated. Most third party payors do not allow a healthcare worker to provide services to an immediate family member. Clinical leaders should be informed when you (provider) are in a position to provide healthcare services to a patient that you have or had a personal relationship with to assist with mitigation of any potential or real problems.

# MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF BUSINESS ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

# **Conflicts of Interest**

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital employees must not do anything where their personal interests could conflict or reasonably appear to conflict with the interests of MFB. For example, if you were to participate in any business opportunity where you might receive personal financial gain apart from your normal wages, you could be in a conflict of interest situation.

You should not take any financial or other benefit separate from your normal wages that could affect your decision-making abilities as a MFB employee such as:

• You or a family member taking money from a company that does business with MFB

• You or a close family member having ownership in a business that competes with MFB Contact human resources (HR) to fill out a conflict of interest form prior to engaging in any activity that could be considered a conflict of interest. Human resources, leadership, and the compliance team will help manage and/or resolve the situation with you.

# Property

- **Company Property:** Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital and network equipment, furniture, money, office supplies, ideas, plans, and other information about our business are to be used for the benefit of MFB.
  - Assets: Assets include but are not limited to equipment, furniture, office supplies, linens, medical supplies, housekeeping items, and money. You may not take, borrow, or loan MFB assets for your personal gain. Property that is no longer needed by MFB may be sold to employees at fair cost through our Central Supply Manager.
  - Trade Secrets: You should always protect MFB confidential and private business information. This includes information not generally made known to the public or information that could be useful to MFB competitors. This could include:
    - Financial data
    - Planned new projects or expansions
    - Employee information
    - Capital investment plans
    - Contract information
    - Liability coverage issues

You should only discuss MFB business information on a need-to-know basis. MFB business information should only be disclosed to persons outside of MFB when an approved disclosure agreement has been obtained. Do not discuss MFB confidential information in social or routine business relations.

## Personal Property

All workforce members shall respect and safeguard the personal property of patients, visitors, and other workforce members as well as the property of MFB. Theft and destruction of property may be addressed through disciplinary action, and/or by contacting law enforcement, as appropriate.

## Gifts & Entertainment

### • Gifts

To sustain the health of our relationships with our patients, community, and business partners no employee may ever ask for or accept cash or cash-equivalent gifts (e.g. gift cards) from patients, contractors or vendors/suppliers. Any cash or cash-equivalent gift must be returned to the patient, contractor, vendor or other supplier with an explanation of Company policy.

Employees may accept non-cash equivalent gifts of small value (e.g. a fruit basket or food items) not to exceed a total value of \$25. In the event you receive a spoilable food gift you may accept the gift but make sure to share the gift with your team or department.

Gifts to individuals who refer patients to MFB cannot be cash or cash equivalents; they should only be given infrequently; and must never exceed an aggregate value of \$50/calendar year. Additionally, the amount of the gift cannot be determined in a manner that takes into account the volume or value of referrals and the gift must not violate the Anti- Kickback Statute.

If you have a question regarding whether you should or should not accept or give a gift or if you believe it would be truly insulting (culturally or otherwise) to a client or business partner to decline a gift, contact your manager, human resources or the compliance officer who will help you decide how the situation should be best handled.

#### • Entertainment

You may not ask for or receive entertainment-type gifts from any individual with whom MFB does business.

On a very limited basis, a vendor could provide a meal if it is tied to staff education and takes place in a business reasonable location. The vendor may not pay for travel or lodging to/from the location.

## Improper Payments, Corruption, and Bribes

MFB will not offer, pay, or accept bribes or kickbacks at any time for any reason, not will we offer or accept any kind of improper payment. Bribes and kickbacks include include cash, gifts, services, entertainment and/or anything of value.

If MFB receives an overpayment of funds for services provided, the overpayment when discovered will be returned according to the timeframes required by federal and/or state regulations and with proper notification to the payor.

The use of MFB funds or assets for any unlawful or unethical purpose is not allowed. Making payment to a third party for any purpose other than that which is clearly documented in MFB records is prohibited.

# False Claims

The federal government and many states have False Claims Act laws to punish billing fraud, waste and abuse crimes. Examples of actions that could cause a violation of these laws include:

- Charging for a service that was not provided or not ordered by a physician or other appropriately licensed person
- Charging for a service that differs in any way from the actual service provided.

If you suspect billing errors are occurring, you have a duty to report these to management or the Compliance Officer. Employees who report in good faith are protected and do not need to fear that anyone will attempt to "get even." The MFB Whistleblower Policy prohibits any retaliation for reporting.

# **Record Truthfulness and Retention**

# • False Information in Records

Federal law requires that MFB financial and medical records correctly reflect the true nature of the transactions represented. You must not create or be a part of the creation of any records intended to mislead or to hide anything.

- Do not make records appear as though payments were made to one person when payments were made to another
- Do not submit expense accounts which do not accurately record the real expense.
- Do not create any records that do not truthfully show what occurred.
- o Permanent entries in MFB records must never be altered, only amended.
- Payment may not be made if any amount will be used for a purpose other than that described in the documents supporting the transaction

# • Retention of Records

MFB records and files must never be destroyed until it is determined that they have been kept long enough to meet the holding period required by law. There are federal and state laws which require that certain records be kept for specific periods of time, particularly records related to:

- Contracts
- Employees
- Health, safety and the environment
- Patients
- Research
- Taxes and finances

Records relating to any pending lawsuit, government investigation, or audit must not be destroyed until the entire matter is fully settled and closed. Destroying records to avoid discovery in a legal proceeding may be a criminal offense. For more information refer to the Records Retention Policies for guidance on retention periods and restrictions.

## **Business Partners**

We seek interactions with the community and business partners that align with our core values. We perform due diligence and know our business partners, consultants, and all those permitted to have privileges for working with our patients are vetted and committed to following the spirit of our Code of Ethical Conduct, policies, and procedures. All arrangements require an agreement with MFB to ensure our standards and policies regarding conduct are upheld. We terminate those relationships that demonstrate continued violations of our standards. We do not do business with any contractor or vendor who has been excluded from federal and/or state funded healthcare program.

# Marketing

While we work hard to be a leader in our industry, we do so by maintaining high standards of honesty and fairness when engaging in marketing, promotional, and advertising activities. We will not enter into any arrangement that is unlawful or could harm our reputation. Mary Free Bed staff conduct data collection using accepted methods for gathering and analyzing data and maintaining its confidentiality. Mary Free Bed staff do not share data that does not originate at Mary Free Bed unless they obtain the permission of the owner.

# **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

# **Community activities**

Our workforce is encouraged to become involved in the life of our local communities by supporting causes and events, especially those that advocate for the clients we serve. It is important to remember that we should not pressure others to contribute to or participate in our preferred charitable organizations. You should avoid outside work or actions that could conflict with this Code of Ethical Conduct.

# **Political Activity**

You are encouraged to participate in the political process outside of the work place but you are not allowed to take part in political activities during work hours. It is against MFB policy and may be illegal for you to:

- Enter, directly or indirectly, any political donation on your expense account that causes MFB to reimburse you for that expense. This includes the cost of fundraising tickets for political functions.
- Use any MFB property, facilities, employee time or intranet for any political activity. Examples of prohibited actions include: using secretarial time to send invitations for political fundraising; using MFB telephones to make political solicitations; or allowing any candidate to use meeting rooms for political campaigning.
- Some exceptions may apply for supporting legislation that MFB is engaged in. Contact the Compliance officer if you have questions.
- Regardless of the role you hold, take care not to exert pressure on others to accept or support your political point of view.

Be honest.

Follow the law.

Comply with the Code.

Be accountable.

Act with integrity.

MFB Corporate Compliance Core Team

Compliance Officer: Jennifer McWain CHC, MHS, PT Jennifer.Mcwain@maryfreebed.com

Privacy Officer: Jill Bustin MPA, RHIA Jill.Bustin@maryfreebed.com

HIPAA Security Officer: Paul Nowak, PMP Paul.Nowak@maryfreebed.com

Risk & Patient Safety Specialist: Jessica Stewart BSN, RN Jessica.Stewart@maryfreebed.com

Compliance Officer Orthotics, Prosthetics, & Bionics: Rob Tuck CPO Rob.Tuck@maryfreebed.com