

Company Position Statement on Bioethics

Developing innovative products and continuously improving care for individuals with renal diseases are essential to create a better future for patients. The quality and safety of our services and products are the foundation of our business, while Fresenius Medical Care continues to demonstrate the utmost respect for human and animal life. The following commitments reflect the ethical standards we uphold in our research and development activities:

We are committed to advancing research, developing innovative products, and enhancing therapies. Our research activities are conducted in an ethical manner and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

When conducting clinical trials, the interests and welfare of individuals who take part in them are of greatest importance to us. We are guided by international principles (e.g., Declaration of Helsinki) and best-practice guidelines (e.g., ICH Guideline for Good Clinical Practice) when performing them. Throughout the research process, we follow the ethical principles set forth in the Belmont Report, respect for persons, beneficence, and justice. We also have policies and processes in place and train employees involved in those trials accordingly. Prior to conducting any clinical trial, we assess the potential risks and benefits. All clinical trials are reviewed and approved by independent ethics committees as required by local law. In addition, ongoing trials are monitored on a regular basis. Clinical trial participants act voluntarily after giving their prior and informed consent. We safeguard their personal data throughout our trial activities.

Responsible animal research and animal welfare are important aspects when considering the ethical implications of research and development activities. If animal trials are required, these are conducted by third-party research organizations. We encourage scientific innovation and other activities to replace, reduce and refine (3R guiding principles) animal trials in the interest of animal welfare.

With the aim of developing innovative solutions for patients, we support activities to advance research utilizing emerging technologies that may involve aspects such as stem cell research, or nanotechnology. We acknowledge and consider the potential risks and concerns associated with them and also implement measures to reduce foreseeable risks.

In accordance with our quality and compliance standards, we only work with third parties, suppliers and research partners that follow bioethics guidelines similar to ours. We document and publish regular reports on our research activities to foster transparency and open communication.