

**NUREMBERG 2™**  
**The Nuremberg Code 1947**  
**The First International**  
**Bioethics & Human Rights Laws**  
**The Nuremberg Code (1947)**  
**Permissible Medical Experiments**

The great weight of the evidence before us to effect that certain types of medical experiments on human beings, when kept within reasonably well-defined bounds, conform to the ethics of the medical profession generally. The protagonists of the practice of human experimentation justify their views on the basis that such experiments yield results for the good of society that are unprocurable by other methods or means of study. All agree, however, that certain basic principles must be observed in order to satisfy moral, ethical and legal concepts:

1. The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. This latter element requires that before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him the nature, duration, and purpose of the experiment; the method and means by which it is to be conducted; all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment.

The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs, or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity.

2. The experiment should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature.

3. The experiment should be so designed and based on the results of animal experimentation and a knowledge of the natural history of the disease or other problem under study that the anticipated results justify the performance of the experiment.

4. The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury.
5. No experiment should be conducted where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur; except, perhaps, in those experiments where the experimental physicians also serve as subjects.
6. The degree of risk to be taken should never exceed that determined by the humanitarian importance of the problem to be solved by the experiment.
7. Proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability or death.
8. The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required through all stages of the experiment of those who conduct or engage in the experiment.
9. During the course of the experiment the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end if he has reached the physical or mental state where continuation of the experiment seems to him to be impossible.
10. During the course of the experiment the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage, if he has probable cause to believe, in the exercise of the good faith, superior skill and careful judgment required of him, that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death to the experimental subject.

### **The Nuremberg Code Key Extracts**

“The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.”  
The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 1

“The person involved [participant in the experiment] should... be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion.”  
The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 1

“The person involved [participant in the experiment]... should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision.”  
The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 1

"Before the acceptance of an affirmative decision by the experimental subject there should be made known to him... all inconveniences and hazards reasonably to be expected; and the effects upon his health or person which may possibly come from his participation in the experiment."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 1

"The duty and responsibility for ascertaining the quality of the consent rests upon each individual who initiates, directs, or engages in the experiment. It is a personal duty and responsibility which may not be delegated to another with impunity."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 1

"The experiment should be such as to yield fruitful results for the good of society, unprocurable by other methods or means of study, and not random and unnecessary in nature."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 2

"The experiment should be so conducted as to avoid all unnecessary physical and mental suffering and injury."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 4

"No experiment should be conducted where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 5

"Proper preparations should be made and adequate facilities provided to protect the experimental subject against even remote possibilities of injury, disability or death."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 7

"The experiment should be conducted only by scientifically qualified persons. The highest degree of skill and care should be required through all stages of the experiment of those who conduct or engage in the experiment."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 8

"The human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end... where continuation of the experiment seems to him to be impossible."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 9

"The scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the experiment at any stage, if he has probable cause to believe... that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death to the experimental subject."

The Nuremberg Code (1947) Article 10

## **What is the Point in Human Rights Law?**

What is the point in International Human Rights Laws if the vast majority of people do not actually know what they are, or just how much they protect and defend their individual sovereignty, lifestyle, livelihood, personal welfare, established cultural habits and normal way of life?

A life that is properly protected by those Human Rights is one that is free from any kind of authoritarian encroachment or infraction of those birthrights and liberties, which every human being should expect to fully enjoy within any truly civilized society.

What is the point in Human Rights if governments, politicians, big business and establishment institutions simply pick and choose when to promote and legally enforce them, and then when to totally ignore them and act in ways that blatantly breach even the most sacred and cherished of those Human Rights?

Of course, the answer is that no institution or authority must ever be permitted to do so, and that no politician should be allowed to hold their public position without visibly supporting that standpoint. The only real question is how can the 8 billion individuals within human society best ensure, once and for all, that this is the case?

Do your democratic representatives support and fully adhere to International Human Rights? Your member of parliament? Your senator? Your congressman or congresswoman? Your President? Your city mayor? Those who make the decisions in your councils and government departments?

Surely, if they are not eager and willing to sign on the dotted line that they do, and that they always will, should they not immediately be removed from their political posts?