

MISSION STATEMENT  
OF THE AUSTRIAN CONTINENCE  
AND STOMA CARE NURSES



Promoted by:

European  
Council of  
Enterostomal  
Therapy





## Mission Statement

Continence and stoma care nurses provide support for patients who use stoma products or who suffer from incontinence. The aim of our nursing care is to improve our patients' quality of life and to help them settle into their new routines, so they can move on with their lives as smoothly as possible. Patients with an ostomy or continence condition, as well as their families, depend on expert and holistic support because the quality of the care and service they receive has a direct impact on their quality of life. At the same time, continence and stoma care nurses are an important link between the medical profession, industry, and healthcare funding bodies.

To underline this shared philosophy and generate greater public awareness, a group of Austrian continence and stoma care nurses belonging to the Dansac Nurse Academics resolved to draw up a mission statement. The following principles form the core of the mission statement and define the values, goals, and competencies it contains.

The ECET would like to promote the following mission statement and thanks the Austrian group of continence and stoma care nurses for creating this important paper.

## Principles

We are a group of Austrian continence and stoma care nurses who work in a variety of organisations.

Our activities focus primarily on patients and their families or others in their social environment, as well as the nursing community, medical profession, healthcare funding bodies, contractual partners, and training establishments.

In this way, we wish to make a valuable contribution to society and promote values and qualities such as:

- **BEING MYSELF**
- **QUALITY OF LIFE**
- **PROFESSIONALISM**

## BEING MYSELF

- Our aim is to provide personalised, independent support to patients in a spirit of respect and mindfulness that recognises their autonomy.
- Trust and mutual respect are the fundamental basis for all our activities.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

- Our work focuses on helping patients achieve maximum independence so that they can manage the challenges they face in their daily lives with confidence and with ease.
- We always safeguard patient privacy.

## PROFESSIONALISM

- We are competent partners who are committed to making our specialist expertise available to patients by providing unbiased and sustainable advice, and always taking into account linguistic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.
- We act as mediators in the interdisciplinary area of patient treatment.

## What does being myself mean?

**Our aim is to provide personalised, independent support to patients in a spirit of respect and mindfulness that recognises their autonomy.**

We acknowledge patients' personal needs without making value judgements, do not restrict them in their autonomy, and incorporate these standards into the care we provide. We provide patients with medically sound and professional support in a language they can understand. Our efforts to cultivate a respectful, mindful relationship also include addressing cultural and/or religious backgrounds.

We enable patients to preserve their individuality and to refocus, as the situation requires.

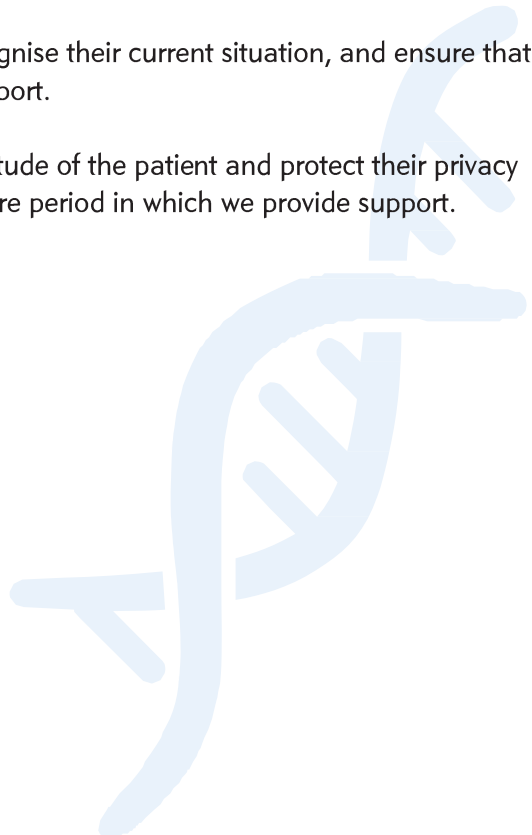
## **Trust and mutual respect are the fundamental basis for all our activities.**

We create an atmosphere of trust that makes it possible for patients to express their needs, wishes, and feelings. We engage with patients, their circumstances, and their emotions with empathy and without prejudice so we can meet them where they are at the moment.

Together with patients, we plan a care pathway that is feasible for them and provide them with support for as long as they need it.

We respect our patients, recognise their current situation, and ensure that they receive personalised support.

We value and respect the attitude of the patient and protect their privacy with sensitivity during the entire period in which we provide support.



## What does Quality of Life mean?

**Our work focuses on helping patients achieve maximum independence so that they can manage the challenges they face in their daily lives with confidence and with ease.**

The support we provide helps patients to manage any possible restrictions independently and in a way that is consistent with their personal definition of quality of life. Owing to our specific professional training and advice, we are competent contact persons.

Our goal is to ensure that patients retain their ability to care for themselves and live independently.



## **We always safeguard patient privacy.**

In all our activities, we preserve and respect the privacy of the patient and respect their boundaries.



## What does Professionalism mean?

**We are competent partners who are committed to making our specialist expertise available to patients by providing unbiased and sustainable advice, and always taking into account linguistic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.**

Our willingness to undergo further training and education beyond the requirements of the law means that our nursing and medical expertise is always state-of-the-art. We pass on our knowledge to patients and their family members and carry out training programmes for our colleagues. We implement evidence-based findings into practice, take part in research, and publish our findings. We provide patients and their family members with appropriate information material.

We deal with patients and their family members as equals, agree upon shared goals, and draw up the necessary measures. Within the framework of our advisory work, we respect cultural and religious backgrounds and incorporate these specific aspects into our daily practice.

## **We are mediators in the interdisciplinary area of patient treatment.**

We coordinate planned activities in the interdisciplinary team and make sure that the schedules for medical and therapeutic measures do not conflict. We contact health insurance providers to ensure that adequate provision is made for patients, and to plan targeted cooperation with health-care providers.

In everything we do, we take into account economic and ecological factors.



Participating continence  
and stoma care nurses (KSB):

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It is explicitly stated that the sponsor in no way  
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