

Practice Guideline 8 – Conducting Research

1. Research is essential to the successful promotion and protection of sexual and relationship health and wellbeing and to the development of sexual and relationship therapy. Members are encouraged to support research undertaken on behalf of the profession and to participate actively in research work.
2. The dignity, rights, safety and well-being of participants must be a primary focus of consideration in any research study. Participants must give informed consent freely and have the right to withdraw at any time during the research. A participant's entitlement to receiving services should not be affected by their consent or refusal to participate in any research. All research should pass through the agency of Universities' research committees or other appropriate body.
3. Members should consider carefully the following key areas as well as the COSRT Code of Ethics and Practice before embarking on any research with human subjects:
 - a) Any research involving Clients or participants must conform to the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki 1964 www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/ as modified by the 59th WMA General Assembly, Seoul, Korea, October 2008, or such other declaration or modification which may be adopted from time to time. This provides guidelines and basic principles for combining research involving human subjects with professional care.
 - b) Dignity: Participants must be treated at all times with respect and dignity. The aims and goals of the research and their involvement therein should be explained fully for an informed consent to be given.
 - c) Rights and well-being: Participants have the right to space to reflect on their willingness or refusal to participate and to withdraw at any time. The right to access of services should not be affected by their willingness or refusal to participate.
 - d) Safety: Confidentiality of the participant is paramount. Participants must give specific permission to use any information made available in the therapeutic relationship for the purpose of research, including information for statistical purposes. If a videotape, film or other electronic recording is made, consent must be in writing and must specify how that information will be used; for example, for other professionals, students, assessors, the public etc. If published in any format, details of the participant are to be restricted to the minimum required to ensure confidentiality. Participants must be informed of the persons

who will have access to personal data and how long the data will be kept. Contacts of agencies should be available to participants in case of any psychological disturbance following participation in research.