

Community Code of Conduct – Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Canada

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Canada and its regional groups work in partnership toward the goal of providing a safe environment for persons living with EDS in Canada. We aim to create a space that facilitates connections, sharing, friendship and support of each other. This is made possible by the caring, hard work and enthusiasm of hundreds of people, including you. We feel a code of conduct is necessary to set forth clear expectations that will assist us all in achieving this goal. Participation in these groups constitutes agreement to the following terms. These terms are not exhaustive and may change at any time. Please review regularly for changes. The Board of Directors and the general membership are to read, understand and abide by this binding code of conduct. If you believe a member is not following these the community code of conduct, please speak to administrator.

All material available on our Facebook groups, website or at our local peer support groups is provided for informative purposes only and is not medical advice or instruction. No action or inaction should be taken based solely on the content of this information. The reader is responsible for consulting the appropriate healthcare professionals on all matters concerning their health and/or well-being. EDS Canada does not promote any one doctor, product, practice, or treatment modality. It is up to the discretion of each individual to create a treatment plan with their healthcare team. Readers who fail to consult with appropriate health authorities assume the risk of any loss, injuries or damages.

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Canada understands that from time to time in forums, there may be differences of opinion. While we encourage constructive discussion and debate amongst our membership; we insist that respect for all opinions be maintained, in a positive and encouraging way. Due to the nature of chronic illness, many in our membership may be sensitive. Please be considerate in your contributions and remain tactful when approaching differing views. Abusive behaviour of any form will not be tolerated.

The avoidance of conflict of interest is a key legal responsibility and not merely a policy of the organization. The integrity of EDS Canada depends on ethical behaviour throughout the organization. Members of EDS Canada are responsible for avoiding conflict of interest situations in order to ensure that behaviour and decision-making are not influenced by conflicting interests. The application of this policy relies heavily on the good judgment, common sense and ethical principles of all involved.

At any time members may move on from EDS Canada. If you leave or disengage from the organization, in whole or in part, we ask that you do so in a way that minimises disruption to other members and overall community harmony.

We do not allow members to advertise any product and/or service for personal gain. We prohibit personal fundraising. We also prohibit fundraising for other organizations, unless there is a joint campaign with EDS Canada. For any group fundraising initiatives, please contact the Board of Directors to submit your proposal for review and approval, prior to public announcement. This step is important as our insurance policy restricts the number of fundraising events that can take place in each fiscal year.

Confidentiality is paramount within our peer support groups. At no time shall any member copy, repeat or transfer comments, ideas or personal information concerning health, financial, emotional well-being, to anyone or outside forum, regional group or organization; without expressed written permission from all members concerned. Your commitment to confidentiality safeguards the dignity and welfare of all members.

Breach of any of the above rules and/or regulations may result in a discussion between the member(s) and the Board of Directors. As each situation is unique, we reserve the right to take disciplinary action up to and/or including dismissal from any or all of; the Facebook groups, website, local peer support groups and the organization. We also reserve the right to remove any content that we deem unacceptable or in contradiction to our community standards, solely at our discretion.

The information and opinions expressed on the website are believed to be accurate, based on the best judgement and information available to the authors. EDS Canada offers no guarantees, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. In addition, the information provided and opinions expressed by EDS Canada members do not necessarily reflect the views of EDS Canada Inc. or its Board of Directors.