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## pcaSuisse Research Charter

Research within the Person-Centred Approach (PCA) is rooted in a humanistic tradition that values the dignity, autonomy, and potential of each individual. This charter outlines the fundamental principles and practical guidelines that govern research activities under the auspices of pcaSuisse, ensuring that research is ethical, rigorous, and person-centred.

### Fundamental Principles

- *Respect for the person:* Research must uphold the dignity, autonomy, and rights of participants.
- *Authenticity and transparency:* Research must be conducted with honesty and integrity. Objectives, methods, and results should be communicated transparently.
- *Confidentiality and data protection:* Personal information and participant data must be handled confidentially and securely. Data should be anonymized whenever possible to protect participants' identities.
- *Care and consideration:* Research should aim to minimize risks and discomfort to participants. Researchers must be mindful of participants' needs and concerns throughout the studies.

### Practical Guidelines

- *Research Design:* Research projects must be designed in accordance with the fundamental principles outlined above. Research methods should be selected based on their relevance to the PCA, promoting participatory approaches.
- *Participant Recruitment and Consent:* Depending on the focus of the study, researchers must ensure an inclusive recruitment process that respects participant diversity. Informed consent must be obtained in writing after providing participants with all necessary information about the study, its objectives, procedures, risks, and potential benefits.
- *Ethics and Evaluation:* Research projects must undergo prior evaluation by the pcaSuisse Ethics and Disputes Commission (EDC), which assesses the compliance with pcaSuisse's ethical standards. This evaluation does not replace cantonal ethics committees, which are responsible for approving clinical trials and research involving human subjects. However, the EDC can advise and support members submitting research projects. Any violation of this charter must be reported to the EDC.
- *Dissemination of Results:* Research findings must be communicated in an



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accessible and understandable manner, both to the scientific community and to the general public.

### **Commitment of pcaSuisse**

pcaSuisse is committed to supporting and promoting research that adheres to this charter by providing resources, training, and platforms for sharing knowledge. By upholding these principles and guidelines, pcaSuisse affirms its dedication to research that respects and values each person in their full complexity and humanity.

### **Charter Revision**

This charter will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with developments in the PCA and evolving ethical research standards.