

This case underscores the critical responsibility of computing professionals to balance meeting a client's interests with avoiding legal, ethical concerns and potential reputational damage arising from data-driven decisions.

Abi must remain objective and base his findings on accuracy rather than tailoring results to meet the client's expectations. Publishing only favourable results can create significant social and ethical challenges, particularly when public health is at risk. While analysing data to support multiple conclusions is not inherently unethical, Abi has a duty to ensure that both positive and negative findings are presented transparently. The core responsibility of a computing professional is to deliver accurate results, not to control how others use them. However, if Abi suspects the manufacturer may selectively publish positive findings, he has an ethical obligation to address this concern.

The public health implications of this case heighten Abi's ethical responsibility, as misleading information could directly harm consumers. The ACM Code of Ethics emphasises accuracy and prioritising the public's best interests (ACM, n.d.). Nevertheless, professional codes alone are insufficient to prevent misinformation; broader systemic measures, accountability, and public awareness are also crucial (Boté-Vericad, 2020).

In conclusion, Abi should uphold ethical standards by presenting all findings objectively and transparently, ensuring accuracy and accountability to protect both the reputation of his profession and the public from ethical and legal issues.

References:

ACM (n.d.). *The code affirms an obligation of computing professionals to use their skills for the benefit of society. Code of Ethics.* <https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics> [Accessed: 27 October 2024].

Boté-Vericad, J. J. (2020). *Ethics, Fake News and information professionals. Comunicació a: BOBCATSSS 2020: Information Management Fake News and Disinformation. Proceedings Book. January 22-24, 2020. InLitAs. Paris. pp: 53-61.*