

Code of Ethics



Statement of Ethical Principles

This Code of Ethics is a part of a practice paradigm that sets a member of the Association apart from non-members. It is based on the principles of the GCC Code of Practice and Standards of proficiency and is a benchmark against which the actions of the profession and its individual members can be measured. The Code sets out the values of the profession and the Association and what society can expect from it.

All health care is an imprecise and often subjective clinical science with uncertain boundaries. The Code seeks to define those fundamental principles by which Association members should conduct themselves in the practice of the profession, accommodating changes in laws, community attitudes, scope of practice and personal professional competence without losing its relevance.

Tenets

1. Personal

- 1.1 commit to the highest standard of excellence, professional and personal conduct in accordance with the COP&SOP
- 1.2 recognise that serving the legitimate clinical needs of the patient is paramount and is only overridden by the requirements of law
- 1.3 recognise that patients may be vulnerable and therefore need considerate attention
- 1.4 refrain from practice when their ability or clinical judgement is impaired by any factor

2. Patient

- 2.1 recognise that the Doctor-patient relationships should be built on trust and cooperation. In keeping with these principles demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the patient and/or representatives of the patient.

2.2 recognise that patients are entitled to:

- change their health practitioner
- accept or reject advice
- be given sufficient information to make informed decisions about their health
- be a partner in their care

2.3 encourage the active participation of the patient in their chiropractic care

2.4 willingly consult and respect the opinions of other health care professionals when such consultation would benefit the patient or when the patient expresses a desire for such consultation

2.5 not exploit the patient for emotional, sexual or financial gain, or for any other reason

2.6 never neglect nor abandon a patient. Due notice should be afforded to the patient and/or representatives of the patient when care will be withdrawn so that appropriate alternatives for continuity of care may be arranged

3. Community

3.1 be mindful and respect the moral and ethical values of the community

3.2 exercise utmost care that advertising is truthful and accurate. Advertising should not exploit the vulnerability of patients, or be misleading and should conform with government rules and regulations on professional advertising.

3.3 strive to be exemplary members of their community

4. Clinical

4.1 have the technical competence to perform any clinical tasks undertaken in the course of practice

4.2 maintain and develop professional competence in accordance with GCC regulations

4.3 work within their limits of competence both in general, and in specific clinical situations

4.4 have a valid rationale of care in which they can explain to those they seek to assist

5. Professional

5.1 participate in the advancement of Chiropractic

5.2 strive for optimum interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships

5.3 recognise that to teach chiropractic techniques to any person who is not a registered chiropractor, or is not a student enrolled on an approved/ accredited course and is aspiring to be so registered, is a breach of professional ethics.