

# Code of Ethics

## I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Code of Ethics is to provide guidance, which will ensure the provision of safe and effective chiropractic care to the public. Where a provision of the Code of Ethics is inconsistent with legislation, the legislation shall govern.

## II. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PATIENT

### 1. Quality of Care

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A chiropractor shall at all times provide the highest reasonable quality of care consistent with the best available evidence and within their professional and personal limits of competence.

The provision of care may include the appropriate referral to non-chiropractic health care practitioners for diagnosis and treatment. Failure to provide the highest reasonable quality of care, including appropriate referral, is unethical.

### 2. Guarantees

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A chiropractor shall not guarantee to cure any ailment.

### 3. Patient's Visits

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A chiropractor shall provide care as often as necessary, and shall avoid unnecessary care.

A chiropractor should not provide any medical diagnosis to the patients. For the care a chiropractor must consider its safety.

### 4. Referral

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Where a chiropractor is unable to continue to care for a patient, they shall inform the patient and assist the patient in finding alternative care.

### 5. Confidentiality

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A chiropractor shall protect the privacy of a patient, including the privacy of all information related to the patient's health. Except in the following cases. A) When a chiropractor obtains the patient's consents. B) When a chiropractor is asked to indicate the information by the law. C) When a chiropractor needs a fellow practitioner's advices. D) When keeping the patient's privacy is not helpful for the patient.

### 6. Informed Consent

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A chiropractor shall obtain informed consent from the patient or the patient's guardian before commencing care. A chiropractor should respect the patient's right to choose whether he is going to receive a care or not. Under freedom of choice, a chiropractor should recognize the patient's right to receive the information from another provider.

## **7. Fees**

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Except in the instance of reducing or waiving fees for compassionate reasons, all patients in a practice shall be subject to the same set of fees. The fee structure of a practice shall be made known to the patient before the patient enters into care.

## **8. Malpractice Insurance**

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For the protection of the patient, a chiropractor must make every reasonable effort to obtain and maintain malpractice insurance.

## **9. Equality**

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A chiropractor should take responsible care to all individuals regardless of physical, race, sex, cultural, national origins, religion, and political differences.

## **10. Sexual Harassment**

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A chiropractor should make every effort to avoid dual relationship that could impair their professional judgment.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY TO FELLOW PRACTITIONER**

#### **1. Respect**

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A chiropractor should not criticize other fellow practitioner for his own benefit in front of the patient.

#### **2. Cooperation**

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A chiropractor should encourage and cooperate each other.

### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROFESSION**

#### **1. Title**

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The use of the title "chiropractor" to describe a practitioner, or "chiropractic " to describe a practice shall only be used by an individual who has a combination of education and post-graduate training at least equivalent to a first university degree. To use the terms "chiropractor" or "chiropractic", or to encourage or permit the use of these terms in other circumstances is unethical. The title "doctor of chiropractic" or the abbreviation "D.C." or any variation thereof shall only be used by a graduate of an institution providing education at the internationally recognized level. To use, or to encourage or permit use of the terms "doctor of chiropractic", "D.C." or any variation thereof in other circumstances is unethical.

#### **2. Teaching regulation of Chiropractic techniques**

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It is unethical to teach chiropractic techniques/ spinal manipulation, except to chiropractic students or chiropractors (defined as students or graduates of WHO-standard schools at the internationally-recognized level). However an introductory part of chiropractic techniques excluding protocol of the use of chiropractic techniques to non-chiropractors is acceptable.

### **3. Identity**

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A chiropractor should maintain the uniqueness of chiropractic identity. It is unethical to practice chiropractic under any other titles as follows. Eg. Seitai, Soft-chiropractic, Osteopathy, Manual medicine, Bone setting, - system chiropractic, Ryozyutsu-chiropractic, Chiro-doctor etc.

### **4. Education**

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A chiropractor should render to chiropractic education.

### **5. Research**

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A chiropractor should render to chiropractic research.

### **6. Profession**

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A chiropractor should render to chiropractic profession.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC**

### **1. Specialized Qualifications**

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No chiropractor shall state or imply that they have any specialized qualifications except those recognized by the council on chiropractic education or equivalent body in the jurisdiction where the qualification was obtained.

No chiropractor shall state or imply that they have qualifications superior to their colleagues, except to acknowledge academic degrees and specialty training recognized by a council on chiropractic education or equivalent body.

### **2. Advertising**

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A chiropractor's advertising should be accurate and truthful and should not be misleading or deceptive to the public.