

# Ontario Association of Certified Osteopaths and Acupuncturists



## CODE OF ETHICS

The Ontario Association of Certified Osteopaths and Acupuncturists expects all of its practicing health care practitioner members to follow this Code of Ethics and to conduct themselves in such a manner as to uphold and maintain the high standards of the profession. The Code of Ethics consists of three subdivisions, which govern the behaviour of the member practitioners towards the clients, the general public and towards colleagues. All members are expected to observe the Code in full at all times.

### 1. The Practitioner and the Client

- a) The member must recognize that the primary obligation holds towards the client. At all times the member must practice his or her skills to the best of own ability for the benefit of the client. The well-being and comfort of the client takes precedence over any other requirements.
- b) Consultations, assessments and treatments should only be carried out with the full consent of the client or the parent/guardian if the client is a minor.
- c) Any information or knowledge gained during consultation and assessment, or in the course of professional treatment is considered to be privileged client information and is not to be divulged to anyone without client's explicit consent, with the exception of when it is required by law.
- d) A member of the OACO may never deliberately mislead a client seeking advice and/or treatment.
- e) All possible care must be taken to ensure adequate hygiene, quality of materials, supplies and safety of equipment in use by the practitioner.

- f) By enlarge, a member of the OACOA will accept for treatment, clients with chronic rather than acute conditions or disorders.

## **2. The Practitioner and the Public**

- a) Every member's workplace, premises of practice should be maintained in such a condition as to reflect the standards of the profession and reflect them positively.
- b) Members are free to advice professional services in any way, so long as it does not bring discredit to their profession.
- c) Any contributions to journals, newspapers, professional magazines and other publications may appear under a member's name and qualifications.
- d) Professional practice stationary should be of acceptable standards, stating name, qualifications, relevant professional activities, address and telephone number, as well as any other applicable contact information.

## **3. The Practitioner and the Colleagues**

- a) An active member of the OACOA will not offer or undertake to treat a client who to their knowledge is the client of another qualified health care practitioner in the same profession, without the prior explicit consent of that practitioner.
- b) A member must not attempt by any means to entice a client to leave another health care practitioner to become his or her client.
- c) In cases of referral of a client to a member by a colleague, no form of commission or split fee may be paid or accepted.
- d) All members must present a united front to the public and should not imply criticism of colleagues either in writing or verbally before a client or the general public.

The members of OACOA will consider it a duty and a privilege to share professional knowledge and the results of any research, successful case histories, or new use of products through continued education and classes.