Code of Ethics

AUSTRALIAN CHIROPRACTORS ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

The ACA Code of Ethics outlines the behaviour and conduct that sets a member of the Association apart from non-members and is the benchmark against which the actions of the profession and its individual members can be measured. It expresses the willingness of the members of the profession to be judged by their peers and by society through the quality of service they provide. The Code publicly sets out the values of the profession and what society can expect from it.

The Code seeks to define those fundamental principles by which Association members should conduct themselves in the practice of their profession. It is a living document and one which should accommodate changes in laws, community attitudes, scope of practice and professional competence.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

ACA stands for ethical, professional and compassionate chiropractic care.

CODE OF CONDUCT PRINCIPLES

1. **ACA members must comply with and have a full understanding of the laws and regulations governing the practice of chiropractic in Australia.**
2. **ACA members should always respect the rights, needs, confidentiality and dignity of all individuals.**
3. **ACA members strive for standards of excellence and competency in chiropractic.**
4. **ACA members communicate and co-operate with colleagues, other healthcare professionals and relevant third parties in the best interest of their patients and the wider community.**
5. **ACA members shall act in a manner which maintains and builds on the professional standing of chiropractic in Australia.**
6. **ACA members strive to contribute to the development of the profession and are encouraged to contribute to outreach programs and anything that enhances the status of chiropractic within the community and promotes social justice.**
7. **ACA member's obligations to the Australian Chiropractors Association Limited.**

1. ACA members must comply with and have a full understanding of the laws and regulations relating to the practice of chiropractic in Australia.

- Members should also abide by good business practice as required under any applicable State/Territory legislation (see http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Codes-guidelines/Code-of-conduct.aspx)

2. ACA members should always respect the rights, needs, confidentiality and dignity of all individuals.

Members shall:

- offer physical privacy that meets a patient's individual needs.
- encourage the active participation of patients in their chiropractic care.
- provide appropriate information about the benefits, risks and costs of chiropractic care to enable patients to give informed consent. Where a patient is unable to make an informed decision about their care, members shall seek informed consent from an appropriate person acting on behalf of the patient.
- respect the patient's right to seek a second opinion or cease chiropractic care.
- manage patient's complaints in a professional, sensitive and timely manner.
- abide by the State and Federal Privacy Laws to protect the confidentiality and privacy of patient health information including clinical information, clinical opinion, personal information and practical details such as attendance for treatment unless a disclosure is required by law. This also applies to all people working under their supervision (see https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy-law/privacy-act/).

Members shall not:

- deny people access to chiropractic care on the basis of age, gender, ethnicity, beliefs, sexual preference or health status.
- exploit in any way their professional relationships with patients. (For further clarity regarding this issue, please reference the CBA Code of Conduct – Sections 9.2 Professional boundaries, Section 9.11 Conflicts of Interest and Section 9.12 Financial & Commercial dealings).

3. ACA members strive for standards of excellence and competency in chiropractic.

Members shall:

- practice in a competent and accountable manner in accordance with ACA policy, codes and position statements (refer ACA website: www.chiropractors.asn.au)
- define their scope of practice based on competency standards, contemporary knowledge and research evidence, and integrate such evidence into chiropractic practice.
- incorporate safety and risk management into all aspects of practice and shall accept responsibility to exercise sound judgement.
- provide chiropractic care that is clinically justifiable.
- keep a legible and accurate health record to allow for the effective evaluation of the patient's progress or status.
- accept responsibility for all care provided by others acting under their supervision.
- have the right to refuse to provide chiropractic care where there are reasonable grounds for doing so.
- accept responsibility for their own physical and psychological wellbeing.
- strive to demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning.
- support ethical research which contributes to effective and cost efficient chiropractic outcomes.

4. ACA members communicate and co-operate with colleagues, other healthcare professionals and relevant third parties in the best interest of their patients and the wider community.

Members shall:

- collaborate professionally with all relevant providers to achieve optimal patient outcomes.
- refer patients, when clinically indicated, to an appropriate health professional.

5. ACA members shall act in a manner which maintains and builds on the professional standing of chiropractic in Australia.

Members shall:

- conduct themselves both professionally and personally in a manner that enhances the integrity, culture and standing of the chiropractic profession.
- at all times apply fair, reasonable and honest business principles when dealing with patients, including financial informed consent.
- support the health and well-being of colleagues.
- share appropriate professional knowledge and expertise with colleagues and students and provide positive role models to build successive generations of chiropractors.

Members shall not:

- be associated or involved with conduct which may bring the chiropractic profession into disrepute.
- make commitments which have the potential to produce a conflict of interest with their professional integrity, clinical independence or primary obligation to patients.
- sell, supply, endorse or promote services or goods which exploit their relationships with patients.

6. ACA members strive to contribute to the development of the profession and are encouraged to contribute to outreach programs and anything that enhances the status of chiropractic within the community and promotes social justice.

- Members shall participate in public education programs and integrate appropriate health promotion activities into chiropractic practice.

7. ACA member's obligations to the Australian Chiropractors Association Limited.

Members shall:

- ensure that ACA employees are treated with courtesy and respect at all times.

Members shall not:

- be associated or involved with conduct, as judged by their peers, which may bring the ACA into disrepute.
- permit the publishing, in any medium including all forms of social media, of any communication whatsoever between them and ACA Ltd, without the express authority of ACA.
- claim they are representing the views or policy of ACA without the prior written consent of ACA.

Approved: 17 February 2017