

# **Integrative Manual Therapy Association**

## **Code of Ethics**

### **Standards of Conduct**

#### **Preamble**

This Code of Ethics presents a common set of values and sensibilities by which to guide the practice of Integrative Manual Therapy. These principles and standards of conduct serve to protect the patient, the public and the profession and shall apply to all practitioners of Integrative Manual Therapy.

#### **Principles:**

1. Integrative manual therapists recognize a primary responsibility to the well-being of the patient and act in accordance, providing compassionate care with respect for the rights, privacy and confidentiality of all patients.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall serve the best interest of the patient at all times.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists shall recognize and respect cultural differences and treat all individuals with compassion and sensitivity.
  - c. Integrative manual therapists recognize the vulnerability of the patient, avoid misuse of their influence, and act to assist the patient to become less vulnerable.
  - d. Integrative manual therapists shall in no way exploit the patient or the patient's representative in any aspect of the therapeutic relationship, including physical, psychological, sexual, social or financial.
  - e. Integrative manual therapists shall not discriminate against any individual nor behave in a demeaning, harassing or abusive manner.
  - f. Integrative manual therapists shall maintain the confidentiality of all patient information and shall not disclose such information without the written consent of the patient except as mandated by law or to protect the patient or others from harm.
  - g. Integrative manual therapists shall refer any patient whose best interests would be served in the consultation with another practitioner.
2. Integrative manual therapists safeguard the patient's right to self-determination, honoring the patient's right to choose.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists respect the autonomy of the patient by providing information about clinical findings, treatment recommendations and expected outcomes in order to facilitate an informed choice regarding the plan of care.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists work collaboratively with the patient to establish goals of treatment.
  - c. Integrative manual therapists shall respect the patient's right to choose their practitioner.

3. Integrative manual therapists shall conduct themselves in a truthful and trustworthy manner in all professional activities.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall provide accurate and truthful records of patient treatments.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists shall honestly and accurately represent their credentials, practice and the profession.
  - c. Integrative manual therapists shall avoid any communication that contains misrepresentation, or fraudulent, deceptive or misleading statements.
4. Integrative manual therapists shall endeavor to acquire a high level of professional competence and practice within the scope of their training, experience and certification.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists recognize and accept a lifelong commitment to improving their knowledge and skills to maintain competency and advance the standard of care of the profession.
5. Integrative manual therapists shall promote the elevation of professional standards in Integrative Manual Therapy practice, education and research.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists should support the highest standards of Integrative Manual Therapy practice and should strive to continually surpass expected outcomes, contributing to the elevation of the standards of care.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists should participate in continuous self-assessment to ensure their practice is commensurate with the highest current standards of practice.
  - c. Educators in Integrative Manual Therapy shall be knowledgeable in the content area and model ethical behavior.
6. Integrative manual therapists shall recognize a responsibility to contribute to the health care needs of the community and advance the understanding of health and wellness in the local and global community.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall educate the public about the philosophy and benefits of Integrative Manual Therapy.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists shall endeavor to provide the public with knowledge to make informed choices regarding their health care.
  - c. Integrative manual therapists may advertise services in a truthful and ethical manner.
  - d. Integrative manual therapists shall not engage in any referral relationship that exploits the patient for financial gain.
  - e. Integrative manual therapists shall endeavor to provide services to those unable to pay for services where reasonably able.
7. Integrative manual therapists shall treat colleagues and other professionals with integrity, fairness and respect.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall respect the privacy of colleagues and protect information pertaining to the peer review process.

8. Integrative manual therapists respect all applicable laws and regulations and purport appropriate conduct.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall not knowingly participate in any activity or business venture that shall present a conflict of interest or create undue influence that shall affect his judgment and impair his ability to best serve his patients.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists shall protect the public and the profession by reporting any unethical or illegal conduct.
  - c. Integrative manual therapists shall support laws and regulations that serve the health care interests of the Integrative Manual Therapy patient and the public.
  
9. Integrative manual therapists shall establish fees that are reasonable and equitable for the services provided.
  - a. Integrative manual therapists shall not allow their financial interests to influence their clinical judgment or in any way come before the welfare of their patient.
  - b. Integrative manual therapists shall avoid or seek to eliminate any business arrangements or employment situations that are in conflict with these ethical principles.