

ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND AUDIOLOGY INCORPORATED (ANZAI)

CODE OF ETHICS

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a vessel for uniformity, unity and accountability amongst the Audiometrists, Audiology Technicians, Hearing aid and Prosthetics Technicians within the NZ Hearing Health Care Profession to provide a quality of service to the Hearing Impaired community.

PREAMBLE

Definition of Audiometrist: Any appropriately qualified person who tests hearing and fits audiological prosthetic correction to members of the public.

This Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental principles and rules considered essential to this purpose.

- Every individual who holds a Certificate of Membership as:
 - a) A Senior member
 - b) A Full member,
 - c) An Associate Member and Sub groups there of,
shall abide by this code and herein after is called a "Practitioner".
- Any action that violates the spirit and purpose of this Code shall be considered unethical.
- The fundamentals of ethical conduct are described by the Principles of Ethics and Rules of Ethics as they relate to responsibility to persons served, to the public, and to the profession of Audiometry.
- Principles of Ethics, aspirational and inspirational in nature, form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics.
- Practitioners shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity and sign a copy of the Code of Ethics / Constitution to confirm acceptance.
- Rules of Ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct and are applicable to all Practitioners.
- Principles of Ethics is that Practitioners shall honour their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

1. QUALITY OF SERVICE

Rules of Ethics

- a) Practitioners shall provide all services competently.
- b) Practitioners shall exercise all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to persons in the delivery of professional services.
- c) Practitioners shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided.
 - Practitioners shall not compromise the rights of persons they serve to freely choose the source of services rendered or products dispensed.
- d) Practitioners shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or general health.
- e) Practitioners shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed.
- f) Practitioners shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed and shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.
- g) Practitioners shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis
- h) Practitioners shall not evaluate or treat hearing disorders solely by correspondence.
 - Products associated with professional practice must be dispensed to the client as part of a programme of comprehensive rehabilitative care.
- i) Practitioners shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records to appropriately authorized persons.
- j) Practitioners shall not reveal, without authorization as stipulated under the privacy act 1996, any professional or personal information about the person served professionally, unless required by law to do so, or unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or the community.
- k) Practitioners shall charge only for services rendered or products dispensed. They shall not misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.
- l) Practitioners shall inform those served of professional fees and charges in advance of rendering services or dispensing products. Such fees and / or charges shall not be excessive in relation to the services rendered or products dispensed.
- m) Practitioners shall use persons in research or as subjects of teaching demonstrations only with their informed consent.
- n) Practitioners shall withdraw from professional practice when substance or an emotional or mental disability may adversely affect the quality of the services they render

2. QUALITY OF THE SERVICES THEY RENDER

Principles of Ethics

Practitioners shall honour their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence.

Rules of Ethics

- a) Practitioners shall engage in the provision of clinical services only to the level of their proven competency or when they are in the certification process and are supervised by a member who holds an appropriate Certificate.
- b) Practitioners shall engage in only those aspects of the profession that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training and experience.
 - For the purpose of this Code of Ethics, misrepresentation includes any untrue statements or statements made that are likely to mislead. Misrepresentation also includes the failure to state any information that is material and that ought, in fairness, to be considered.
- c) Practitioners shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.
- d) Practitioners shall delegate the provision of clinical services only to those persons who are graded or to persons in the education or certification process who are appropriately supervised. The provision of support services may be delegated to persons who are neither certified nor in the certification process only when a certificate holder provides appropriate supervision. (3rd Person)
- e) Practitioners shall prohibit any of their professional staff from providing services that exceed the staff member's level of education, training, and experience.
- f) Practitioners shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in good working order and is properly calibrated. (2 yearly)

3. REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PUBLIC

Principles of Ethics

Practitioners shall honour their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the profession by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communication involving any aspect of the profession.

Rules of Ethics.

- a) Practitioners' shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training or experience.
- b) Practitioners shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, services rendered, or products dispensed, or engage in any scheme or artifice to defraud in connecting with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services.
- c) Practitioners 'statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of hearing disorders, about the profession, and about professional services.
- d) Practitioners' statements to the public – advertising, announcing, reporting research results, and promoting products – shall not contain misrepresentations.

4. INDEPENDENCE FROM COMMERCIAL INFLUENCE

Principles of Ethics

Practitioners shall honour their responsibility to provide the highest standard of independent professional service. Ethics define important social interests which a profession assumes the responsibility to serve, and that require an independence from the effects of commercial pressures.

Rules of Ethics

- a) Practitioners must not accept compensation in any form from a manufacturer or supplier of professionally related products for recommending any particular product knowingly less suited than another.
- b) Practitioners must not give or receive any commission for arranging a consultation with other professionals.
- c) Practitioners shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.
- d) Practitioners may display their membership status only when a full member or higher.

5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS IN THE PROFESSION

Principles of Ethics

Practitioners shall honour their responsibilities to the profession and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of allied professions. Practitioners shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the profession, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the profession's self-imposed standards.

Rules of Ethics

- a) Practitioners shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.
- b) Practitioners shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or any form of conduct that adversely reflects on the profession or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.
- c) Practitioners shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.
- d) Practitioners' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall contain no misrepresentations.
- e) Practitioners shall conduct themselves in their relationships with each other, and in relation to professional issues, in such a fashion as to not bring themselves or their colleagues into professional disrepute.
- f) Practitioners shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgement, regardless of referral source or prescription.
- g) Practitioners who have reason to believe that the Code of Ethics has been violated should be referred to the Ethics Committee.
- h) Practitioners shall co-operate fully with the Ethics Committee in its investigation and adjudication of matters related to this Code of Ethics.
- i) Practitioners shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, students and members of allied professions on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or general health.

End of Code of Ethics