

New Zealand Audiological Society Inc

PO Box 9724, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Phone/Fax: 0800 625 166

Email: mail@audiology.org.nz

Website: www.audiology.org.nz



Code Of Ethics 1 December 1998

Preamble

The preservation of the standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the responsible discharge of obligations in the profession of Audiology. This Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental principles and rules considered essential to this purpose.

Every individual who is (a) a full member of the New Zealand Audiological Society, (b) an associate (c) a student or (d) a provisional member, shall abide by this code.

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 Audiology.

Principles of Ethics, aspirational and inspirational in nature, form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Individuals shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

Rules of Ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct and are applicable to all individuals.

Principles of Ethics 1

Individuals shall honour their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally.

Rules of Ethics

- 1.1 Individuals shall provide all services competently.
- 1.2 Individuals shall exercise all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to persons in the delivery of professional services.
- 1.3 Individuals shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided. Individuals shall not compromise the right of persons they serve to freely choose the source of services rendered or products dispensed.
- 1.4 Individuals 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.
- 1.5 Individuals shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed.
- 1.6 Individuals 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.

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- 1.7 Individuals shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis
- 1.8 Individuals 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 re/habilitative care.
- 1.9 Individuals shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records to appropriately authorised persons.
- 1.10 Individuals shall not reveal, without authorisation, 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.
- 1.11 Individuals shall charge only for services rendered or products dispensed. They shall not misrepresent¹, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.
- 1.12 Individuals 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.
- 1.13 Individuals shall use persons in research or as subjects of teaching demonstrations only with their informed consent.
- 1.14 Individuals shall withdraw from professional practice when substance abuse or an emotional or mental disability may adversely affect the quality of the services they render.

Principles of Ethics 2

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

Rules of Ethics

- 2.1 Individuals shall engage in the provision of clinical services only when they hold the appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence or when they are in the certification process and are supervised by a member who holds the appropriate Certificate of Clinical Competence.
- 2.2 Individuals 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.
- 2.3 Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.

¹ For the purposes of this Code of Ethics, misrepresentation includes any untrue statements or statements 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.

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- 2.4 Individuals shall delegate the provision of clinical services only to those persons who are certified 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.
- 2.5 Individuals shall prohibit any of their professional staff from providing services that exceed the staff member's level of education, training, and experience.
- 2.6 Individuals shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in working order and is properly calibrated.

Principles of Ethics 3

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

Rules of Ethics

- 3.1 Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, or experience.
- 3.2 Individuals shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, services rendered, or products dispensed, or engage in any scheme or artifice to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services.
- 3.3 Individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of hearing disorders, about the profession, and about professional services.
- 3.4 Individuals' statements to the public - advertising, announcing, reporting research results, and promoting products - shall not contain misrepresentations.

Principles of Ethics 4

Individuals shall honour their responsibility to provide the highest standard of independent professional services. 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

- 4.1 Individuals who have economic interest in, are committed to, or are paid by a related commercial interest, company or foundation shall not dispense products related to that commercial interest, company or foundation.
- 4.2 Individuals must not accept compensation in any form from a manufacturer or supplier of professionally related products for recommending any particular product.
- 4.3 Individuals must not give or receive any commission for arranging a consultation with other professionals.
- 4.4 Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

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- 4.5 Individuals must not permit their membership to be used in the sale or promotion to the public of any product related to the profession.

Principles of Ethics 5

Individuals shall honour their responsibilities to the profession and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of allied professions. Individuals 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

- 5.1 Individuals shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the Code of Ethics.
- 5.2 Individuals 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.
- 5.3 Individuals 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.
- 5.4 Individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall contain no misrepresentations.
- 5.5 Individuals 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.
- 5.6 Individuals shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgement, regardless of referral source or prescription.
- 5.7 Individuals who have reason to believe that the Code of Ethics has been violated are encouraged to resolve the matter at a personal level. Where such an approach is inappropriate or the contravention is deemed to be of a serious nature, the matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee.
- 5.8 Individuals shall co-operate fully with the Ethics Committee in its investigation and adjudication of matters related to this Code of Ethics.
- 5.9 Individuals 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.