



NEW SOUTH WALES

OSTEOPATHS REGISTRATION BOARD

OSTEOPATHS CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

This code of professional conduct was approved by the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board under section 27 of the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Act 1991, and will remain current pending the establishment of an updated code of professional conduct under section 19 of the Osteopaths Act 2001.

1. An osteopath must conduct himself or herself in his or her professional duties in accordance with the Osteopaths Act 2001 and Regulations and in accordance with this code as approved by the Board.
2. An osteopath must maintain his or her knowledge and practice at an acceptable level of competence.
3. An osteopath must only perform or participate in those procedures that are within his or her competency and for which he or she is appropriately qualified, and refer those patients whose needs or requests are outside his or her competency.
4. All services and functions practised by an osteopath must be provided in accordance with this code.
5. An osteopath's ordinary place of practice must provide privacy and confidentiality for his or her patients and their records.
6. An osteopath must not exploit his or her relationship with a patient in any way. In particular there must not be a sexual relationship with a patient during the professional relationship.
7. An osteopath must refrain from criticising colleagues in public or in a clinical setting in a manner which casts doubts on the colleague's professional competence. This does not apply to the critical evaluation of published works nor to expert testimony in court.
8. An osteopath must not, unless required by law divulge information about a patient unless the patient specifically authorises the release in writing. Even under these circumstances, an osteopath should be aware of the necessity of preserving confidentiality as much as possible. For example, in court, an osteopath may request the judge or magistrate to permit the suppression of information not relevant to the matter being decided.
9. An osteopath must inform his or her patients at the commencement of a course of treatment of the reasonable foreseeable implications, including material risks, complications and reactions, and explain the nature and purpose of the treatment.
10. An osteopath must not undertake research involving human subjects without the research protocol being approved by a properly constituted ethics committee. This applies in particular to students or trainees who are being considered as subjects for research.
11. An osteopath must not approve of or collaborate in the use of osteopathic techniques by untrained persons except when those persons are in supervised training.
12. An osteopath must respect the ethical, religious and political beliefs of his or her patients and must be willing to refer patients to a more suitable osteopath should such issues seem likely to affect the professional relationship.

13. An osteopath must respect the wish of a patient for a second opinion and must, if practicable, help the patient obtain a competent second opinion.
14. If an osteopath has reason to believe that a colleague is behaving in an unprofessional manner, or that his or her standard of practice falls substantially below acceptable standards then, if practicable, the colleague must be approached in a helpful way. If this is impracticable, then the matter must be reported to the Osteopaths Registration Board or the Health Care Complaints Commission.
15. An osteopath must not treat a patient whilst his or her ability to do so is impaired by the influence of alcohol or drugs.
16. An osteopath must not teach manipulative techniques of the human spine or its immediate articulations to any person who is not a registered chiropractor, osteopath, physiotherapist or medical practitioner or student enrolled in an approved course in any of the aforesaid disciplines.
17. An osteopath in practice and for a minimum of seven years after retiring from practice must maintain a minimum of \$10,000,000.00 in Professional Indemnity Insurance coverage.
18. An osteopath must immediately advise the Board in the event of any of the following.
 - If convicted of a criminal offence in New South Wales or elsewhere.
 - If refused registration/licensure, or his or her registration/licensure is suspended or removed, in another jurisdiction of Australia or elsewhere.
 - If restrictions or conditions are imposed on his or her registration/licensure in another jurisdiction of Australia, or elsewhere.
 - If a complaint relating to his or her conduct as a provider of osteopathic services is made to a registration authority, or Health Complaints Commission, in another jurisdiction of Australia or elsewhere.
 - If named as a defendant in a court action for negligence or other malpractice in the provision of osteopathic services.
 - If subject to adverse findings relating to conduct as a provider of osteopathic services, or character, by a Court, or Royal Commission in New South Wales or elsewhere, or the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption.