

# C ode of Ethics

**The Code of Ethics for CMAAC members** sets out a basic guideline for ethical acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine practice. The code is based on a set of core values to ensure its members will adhere to high standards of clinical expertise and ethical conduct. In return, the profession maintains continued public trust in the acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine practice.

These principles are based on the core ethical values of integrity, accountability, fairness, beneficence, compassion, and respect for patient autonomy.

## The Principles

1. The responsibility of a practitioner is to the health and well-being of patients.
2. Be truthful, obey the law, and provide care with respect for human rights and dignity and without discrimination.
3. Commit to the highest level of professionalism by maintaining current competency.
4. Respect the right of patients to be cared for by the practitioner of their choice.
5. Provide timely and competent care that is consistent with the standards of the profession.
6. Provide unbiased explanation of options with associated risks and costs, and obtain consent before proceeding with assessment(s) or treatment.
7. Recognize limitations and refer patients to others more qualified when appropriate.
8. Make the well-being of patients the primary consideration when making referrals to other health-care workers.
9. Never overstate or embellish qualifications, including advertising or speech that could mislead a reasonable person.
10. Maintain a safe and healthy office environment for both patients and staff.
11. Accept responsibility for the care provided by authorized practitioner.
12. Only provide compromised or unconventional treatment with full disclosure and consent of patients.
13. Only make evaluative remarks about the work of others after making reasonable efforts to understand the prior treatment history of patients.
14. Maintain appropriate and dignified boundaries in the patient/practitioner relationship.
15. Protect the confidentiality of the personal and health information of patients.

## Core Values

### **AUTONOMY**

Understanding and respecting patients' rights to make informed decisions based on personal values and beliefs.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Responsibility to the client, profession, or other healthcare providers, and to the public.

### **BENEFICENCE**

Maximizing benefits and minimizing harm for the welfare of the patient.

### **COMPASSION**

Acting with sympathy and kindness to all patients in alleviating their concerns and pain.

### **FAIRNESS**

Treating all individuals, patients, colleagues and third parties in a just and equitable manner.

### **INTEGRITY**

Being truthful, behaving with honour and decency and upholding professional standards. This also includes, billing patients and third party payers accurately and fairly.

*Effective July 07, 2015*



*Promoting. Leading. Advocating.*

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