



# G.O.C.C. ONTARIO SOCIETY

## ONTARIO OSTEOPATHIC REGISTRY

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### CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND CONDUCT

All active members of the General Osteopathic Council of Canada Ontario Society (GOCCOS) agree to be bound by the following principles in their Osteopathic Manual practice. For the purpose of convenience General Osteopathic Practitioner means any registered member of the General Osteopathic Council of Canada - Ontario Society.

The interests of the patient should be paramount in all acts undertaken by the General Osteopathic Practitioner in the exercise of his / her profession, in the promotion of Osteopathic manual Practice and in the undertaking of research.

The General Osteopathic Practitioner has specific obligations towards those who come seeking his / her assistance:

- To keep all client information confidential except when a client may be referred to a registered health care provider with patient's written consent.
- To prominently display diplomas, accreditation and any other qualifications relating to the practice of natural medicine in the workplace.
- To not misrepresent their Scope of Practice or the nature of their professional services by extending a promise to cure.
- To provide general information during every visit relating to fees and other professional services provided and to respond fully to all questions regarding any aspect of such fees and services.
- To complete a detailed patient case history and discuss recommendations and advice as to how natural medicine treatment may be beneficial to the patient.
- To be ethical in the undertaking of treatment, mindful of the limitation of their knowledge, experience and Scope of Practice.
- To maintain a good rapport with other Practitioners, and to not engage in unethical discussions concerning patients or other professionals in public and to provide moral advice and assistance when consulted on any matter relating to natural medicine being mindful not to compromise their scope of practice.
- To make every reasonable effort to be available and accessible to ill patients requesting his / her services.

While General Osteopathic Care may be paramount to the patient's recovery, the General Osteopathic Practitioner cannot demand that the patient forego any other treatment provided by a Regulated Health Professional as a condition of service. The General Osteopathic Practitioner, however, should inform the patient as to the positive or negative effect of conventional treatment undertaken at the same time as the natural health treatment.

At all times the General Osteopathic Practitioner must collaborate with other health care providers in any given case where this is agreed to by the patient.

- The patient has the right to be interviewed, examined and treated in a safe and private setting in a manner which respects the values, personal beliefs and customs of the patient.
- Individuals not directly involved with the patient's care shall not be present, nor shall any person observe the patient through remote viewing or listening facilities or by audio or video recordings unless the patient consents for use in natural medicine research or education.
- The patient has the right to participate actively in all decisions regarding treatment, the right to seek a second opinion at any point and may seek assistance when continued care is beyond the Scope of Practice of the General Osteopathic Practitioner, or when a conflict arises.
- The patient has the right to access their files which must be maintained for at least 5 years following the last visit. The files must contain accurate records of all contact with the patient, including at least the following:
  - Patient's name, address, telephone number, date of birth and medical history, dates and details of patient interview, evaluation, recommendations and treatments provided.

When a patient is referred or transferred to another Practitioner, a copy of the patient's file should be provided to the new practitioner. In cases of consultation, you can request a copy of the patient file from the referring practitioner to ensure continuity of treatment.

While respecting the wishes of the patient, interventions of a third party should not be tolerated except in the case of minors, individuals with special needs or where it is required by law.

The General Osteopathic Practitioner must keep in mind the obligation of professional confidence:

- Patient information cannot be disclosed except by written permission of the client or where it is required by law.
- The General Osteopathic Practitioner must not reveal the reason for a patient's visit except where it is required by law.
- The Practitioner must not use confidential client information for personal gain.

The Practitioner can request comparable payment for services within the profession as a whole. Payment should not be demanded in advanced, however any outstanding payments should be collected by the next visit. The collection of delinquent payments should be handled professionally and ethically where possible, resorting to judicial procedures only when absolutely necessary. The Practitioner is also free to offer their services free of charge where their conscience so dictates.

The General Osteopathic Practitioner must not abuse his / her position of trust by engaging in reprehensible or immoral acts with any patient, in particular all sexual contact between General Osteopathic Practitioners and patient is illicit.