

Code of Conduct

These principles are intended to aid Registered Manual Osteopaths individually and collectively in maintaining a high level of ethical conduct. They are not immutable laws, for the ethical practitioner needs no such laws, but standards by which a registered manual osteopath may determine the propriety of conduct in relationships with patients, colleagues, members of other healthcare professions, and with the public.

1. Registered Manual Osteopaths should refrain from rendering a medical diagnosis, which is a controlled act and therefore outside their scope of practice, unless they hold a license in a health profession that permits them to offer medical diagnoses. However, Registered Manual Osteopaths are permitted to render an osteopathic diagnosis.
2. Registered Manual Osteopaths must refrain from performing high velocity low amplitude (HVLA) techniques as it is a controlled act and outside their scope of practice unless they have a license which permits them to perform HVLA joint manipulations.
3. Registered Manual Osteopaths must refrain from taking x-rays as it is a controlled act and outside their scope of practice unless they have a license that permits them to do so.
4. Registered Manual Osteopaths must refrain from performing any treatment techniques that require digital manipulation in bodily openings (anal or vaginal) as putting digits inside these cavities is a controlled act and outside their scope of practice unless they have a license which permits them to do so.
5. Registered Manual Osteopaths should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct and must comply with all governmental jurisdictional rules and regulations.
6. Registered Manual Osteopaths must commit to the highest standards of excellence and should attend to their patients in accordance with established best practices.
7. Practitioner-patient relationships should be built on mutual respect, trust and cooperation. In keeping with these principles, Registered Manual Osteopaths shall demonstrate absolute honesty with regard to the patient's condition when communicating with the patient and/or representatives of the patient. Registered Manual Osteopaths shall not mislead patients into false or unjustified expectations of favorable results of treatment. In communications with a patient and/or representatives of a patient, Registered Manual Osteopaths should never misrepresent their education, credentials, professional qualification or scope of clinical ability.
8. Registered Manual Osteopaths must preserve and protect the patient's confidential information, except as the patient directs or consents, or the law requires otherwise.

9. Registered Manual Osteopaths should employ their best efforts of good faith to provide information and facilitate understanding to enable the patient to make an informed choice regarding the proposed treatment. The patient should make his or her own determination on such treatment.

10. The practitioner-patient relationship requires the Registered Manual Osteopath to exercise greatest care that he or she will do nothing to exploit the trust and dependency of the patient. Sexual misconduct is a form of behavior that harms patients individually and collectively. Sexual misconduct exploits the practitioner-patient relationship and is a violation of the public trust.

11. Registered Manual Osteopaths should willingly consult with other health care professionals, such as physicians when such consultation would benefit their patients or when their patients express a desire for such consultation. This action requires written consent from the patient.

12. Registered Manual Osteopaths should never neglect nor abandon a patient. Due notice should be afforded to the patient and/or representatives of the patient when care will be withdrawn so that appropriate alternatives for continuity of care may be arranged.

13. With the exception of emergencies, Registered Manual Osteopaths are free to choose the patients they will serve, just as patients are free to choose who will provide healthcare services for them. However, decisions as to who will be served cannot not be based on race, religion, ethnicity, nationality, creed, gender, handicap or sexual preference.

14. Registered Manual Osteopaths must conduct themselves as members of the greater healthcare community dedicated to the promotion of health, the prevention of illness and the alleviation of suffering.

15. Registered Manual Osteopaths must use advertising that is truthful and accurate in representing their professional qualifications and degree of competence. Advertising cannot exploit the vulnerability of patients. It cannot not be misleading and must conform to all governmental jurisdictional rules and regulations in connection with professional advertising.

16. Registered Manual Osteopaths shall protect the public and the profession by reporting incidents of unprofessional, illegal, incompetent and unethical acts to appropriate authorities and organizations and should stand ready to testify in courts of law and in administrative hearings.

17. Registered Manual Osteopaths have an obligation to the profession of manual osteopathy to assure that their behavior does not give the appearance of professional impropriety. Any actions which may benefit the practitioner to the detriment of the manual osteopathy profession must

be avoided so as to not erode public trust.

18. Registered Manual Osteopaths should recognize their obligation to help others acquire knowledge and skill in the practice of the manual osteopathy profession. They should maintain the highest standards of education and training in the accurate and full dissemination of information and ideas.

19. Registered Manual Osteopath must refrain from referring to themselves as “osteopaths”. In an effort to follow suit with most other Canadian provinces, the term “osteopath” is reserved for American trained osteopathic physicians who are registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons as Doctors of Osteopathy (DO) and for all legal purposes are considered medical doctors in Canada. Registered Manual Osteopaths can use their designation “DOMP” (Diploma in Osteopathic Manual Practice) and can refer to themselves as “Registered Manual Osteopath”.