

THE GUILD OF PROFESSIONAL HEALERS

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT, PERFORMANCE & ETHICS

DEFINITIONS

Healing - For the purpose of these Standards, 'Healing' has a specific definition involving the channelling of healing energy through the hands to the recipient. This includes 'Spiritual Healing', 'Reiki Healing' or Energy Healing which aims to restore the balance of body, mind, and spirit of the recipient. It is a natural, non-invasive, holistic approach that has the intention of promoting self-healing, to bring a sense of well-being and peace to the recipient. Healing is carried out in the presence of the recipient. The healer may lay hands on the body or the hands may be held off the body. It does include Distant or Absent Healing.

It does not include massage, manipulation, and the use of instruments, drugs or other remedies or the practice of clairvoyance or psychic surgery.

Full member - Any healing practitioner who meets the requirements and standards set out herein for a Full Membership of the Guild.

Associate Member – Any healing practitioner who meets the requirements and standards set out herein for an Associate Member but who does not currently meet the requirements and standards for Full Membership.

The Guild – The Guild of Professional Healers.

Healthcare Professional – Any person contracted to provide a healthcare service to a patient. Herein, the term Healthcare Professional shall also include Registrants of the Guild”.

Patient and/or Client – These terms shall be interchangeable and include any person receiving healing from a Registrant.

“Practice Guidance Notes” – These are notes that may, from time to time, be disseminated to current Registrants to guide their Healing practice and, if specified, shall be deemed to be fully incorporated into the Standards.

Prospective Registrant – Any person applying for membership of the Guild who has not yet been accepted by the Guild as a Registrant.

Registrant – Any person who has applied for Full or Associate membership and registration with the Guild and been consequently accepted by the Guild.

The Register - The Register of all current Registrants, in good standing, of the Guild, as maintained by the Guild.

The Standards – the Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics set out in this document.

INTRODUCTION

The Standards, as set out in this document, shall apply to every Registrant and prospective Registrant to the Guild. The Standards shall be deemed to fully incorporate the Guild's Education & Training Standards, the Practice of Healing within the NHS Protocol and also its Complaints and Fitness to Practice Code.

Every person applying to become a Registrant with the Guild (or seeking to renew their registration) is required to confirm in writing that they have both read fully and understand the Standards and also that they agree to abide by the Standards.

It is an absolute requirement of registration with the Guild that all Registrants abide by these Standards. The Standards are the basis against which any complaints and any issues of fitness to practice will be assessed. The Guild has full discretion to remove Registrants from the Register if they fail to abide by the Standards.

The Standards will also be used to assess whether to allow prospective Registrants to register with the Guild.

No code can regulate for all situations. The rules laid down in this code should be interpreted in the light of practical common-sense.

The main responsibilities of a Registrant are set out in summary below and then further defined. This is not however meant to be an exclusive list of all the issues that may arise in relation to conduct, performance and ethics.

CONDUCT

A Registrant is considered to be a Healthcare Professional and, as such, must protect the health and welfare of all those who receive Healing from the Registrant.

Accordingly, a Registrant must always:

- Maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct at all times
- Act in the best interests of those using their Healing services.

- Act within their legal limitations, as defined by the Guild's 'Healing within the NHS Protocol' which shall be deemed to be fully incorporated within the Standards.
- Respect the confidentiality of those using their Healing services.
- Provide and also volunteer to the Guild any relevant personal information concerning conduct, competence or health where it might reasonably be considered that such conduct, competence or health issue might adversely affect the provision of Healing services by the Registrant.

PERFORMANCE

The highest standards of professional performance must be maintained at all times.

A Registrant must always:

- Keep their professional knowledge, (including any legislation which affects healers and healthcare professionals) and skills up-to-date.
- Ensure the safety of any healing treatment provided by the Registrant.
- Obtain and maintain a full medical history, including details of any previous and current treatments received from other Healthcare Professionals, as based upon the minimum guidelines set by the Guild in its "Medical History Guidelines".
- Take account of any previous and current treatments received from other Healthcare Professionals when patient needs are assessed or healing is provided.
- Act within the boundaries of their professional knowledge, skills and experience and, if and when necessary, refer on to another Healthcare Professional.
- Obtain informed consent prior to the provision of Healing services from the Patient or, as appropriate, the legal guardian or carer of the same.
- Maintain proper and effective communications with those using their Healing services, including relevant legal guardians, carers, and other Healthcare Professionals.
- Effectively supervise any tasks properly assigned to others to carry out as part of any of the Guild's Healing training courses or any similar course accredited by the Guild
- Limit their work to what is reasonable and appropriate, or stop practising altogether, if they have reason to believe that their performance or judgement is being adversely affected by their mental or physical health
- Ensure they maintain adequate, current and valid insurance cover for public and professional indemnity for themselves and ensure that such

cover is relevant to all situations and places where the Registrant provides Healing. Adequate insurance cover is defined herein, under the Insurance section of the Standards.

ETHICS

Registrants must always:

- Maintain high standards of professional and personal ethics
- Carry out their healing in a professional and ethical way
- Behave with integrity and honesty

A: STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

A Registrant must always:

1. Maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct at all times

A Registrant must not, by act or omission, do or cause anything to be done that may detrimentally or adversely affect the public or the healthcare profession's confidence in Healing.

The Guild reserves the right to reject an application for registration or to strike off the Register (where a Registrant is already registered) any applicant or Registrant who has a current conviction for a criminal offence, particularly but not limited to - offences involving violence; physical abuse; sexual misconduct; drink or drugs and related driving offences involving death or injury; any serious offences involving dishonesty; any serious criminal offence for which a prison sentence was received.

A Registrant must behave with decorum and propriety, respecting the patient's wishes and common decency as to where and how they may or may not be touched.

A Registrant must act in an appropriate manner when attending a patient in hospital, hospice or similar healthcare setting (for example, obtaining the necessary permission, respecting the responsibility of the hospital or hospice for the patients in their care, carrying identification, giving healing without fuss or interruption to ward staff and other patients and not wearing clothing which gives the impression of being hospital staff).

A Registrant must ensure they have an additional adult present when giving healing to a child under the age of 16 years.

2. Act in the best interests of those using their professional services.

A Registrant must not exploit or abuse any personal or professional relationship of those using their services (or any legal guardian or carer of the same) and must always act in their best interests, irrespective of their sex, age, colour, race, physical or mental ability, sexuality, social or economic status, lifestyle, culture, religious or philosophical beliefs.

A Registrant must not, by act or omission, do, cause or allow anything to be done; that they have reason to believe may put the health or safety of those using their Healing services in danger.

A Registrant must act in a reasonably appropriate and timely way to protect members of the public from any apparent threat to health or wellbeing due to a colleague's conduct, performance or health.

Public safety must come before professional or personal loyalties at all times.

3. Legal limitations

A Registrant must act within the legal parameters applicable to the particular environment within which they work which, as a minimum, are set out in the Guild's "Healing within the NHS Protocol"

4. Respect the confidentiality of those using their services.

A Registrant must treat information about those using their services as confidential and only use it for the purpose for which it was given, unless in circumstances reasonably deemed to be of overriding public benefit.

A Registrant must not knowingly release any confidential personal or professional information to any unauthorised person, unless in circumstances reasonably deemed to be of overriding public benefit.

A Registrant must only use such information to continue to advise that person, legal guardian or carer, or for purposes where that person has given specific permission to use the information.

A Registrant must also abide by the conditions of any relevant data-protection legislation and follow best practice for handling and storing confidential information relating to individuals at all times.

5. Provide and also volunteer to the Guild any relevant personal information concerning conduct, competence or health where it might reasonably be considered that such conduct, competence or health issue might adversely affect the provision of Healing services by the Registrant.

A Registrant must provide when asked by the Guild, any relevant information about conduct, competence or health where it might reasonably be considered that such conduct, competence or health issue might adversely affect the provision of Healing services by the Registrant. There is also a duty on the Registrant to volunteer any such information to the Guild, without being asked, where it might reasonably be considered that such conduct, competence or health issue might adversely affect the provision of Healing services by the Registrant.

In particular, a Registrant must inform the Guild, without delay, if they are:

- Convicted of a criminal offence (other than a minor motoring offence)
- Disciplined by any other organisation responsible for regulating or licensing a healthcare professional
- Discharged, suspended or placed under a practice restriction by an employer because of concerns about conduct or competence.
- Aware of any significant change in their mental or physical health that does, or could be reasonably foreseen to, adversely affect the provision of Healing services and/or their professional conduct or competence, especially if they have changed their mode of practice as a result of medical advice.

In relation to any written complaint received by the Guild against a Registrant, it is a requirement of registration with the Guild that Registrants co-operate with all reasonable requirements for provision of information concerning a complaint, except in instances where there is an applicable exclusion where provision of information would compromise the privilege of the registrant against self-incrimination.

B: STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

A Registrant must always:

1. Keep their professional knowledge, (including any legislation which affects Healers) and skills up to date.

Registrants must ensure that their knowledge, skills and performance are up to date and relevant to their field of practice, including taking into account any Guild Practice Guidance Notes.

A Registrant must be capable of meeting the Guild's Standards concerning proficiency that relate to effective, safe and lawful practice. These standards must be met whether the Registrant is in clinical practice or not. It is important to recognise that standards of proficiency are minimum standards of clinical practice. Any Registrant wishing to be on the Guild's Register and wishing to use the designation "Member of the Guild of Professional Healers" or "Associate Member of the Guild of Professional Healers", must maintain their clinical standards so that they are able to practice the skills of their Healing profession safely, even if this no longer forms the basis of their day-to-day work.

A Registrant must stay up to date in order to meet the standards of proficiency that the Guild sets, as practice requirements and techniques develop. This is a core element of the Registrant's Continuing Professional Development.

The Guild will check that Registrants meet current Standards. The Guild reserves the right to test any Registrant at any time if there is any reason for the Guild to reasonably believe that a Registrant may no longer meets the Standards.

2. Ensure the safety of any healing treatment provided by the Registrant.

A Registrant must;

- Maintain suitable working conditions where they give Healing and ensure that these are safe and meet local authority regulations where required.
- Ascertain, whenever necessary, that patients have sought medical advice and advise, where appropriate, that they do so.
- Be ready to co-operate with the medical profession
- A Registrant must keep within the scope of their Healing practice. This means that they should only practice in those Healing fields in which they have appropriate education, training and experience.
- Understand and act within the law as it relates to healing (for example, confidentiality; access to patients' records and data protection; consent to treatment; child protection; infectious diseases).

- Refer on a patient for further professional advice, Healing or treatment if it becomes clear that the Healing task is beyond the Registrant's own scope of practice or skill.

A Registrant must not:

- Give or offer any other form of treatment or therapy in association with Healing unless they are qualified and insured to do so and without first making it clear to the patient and obtaining the patient's specific consent.
- Give healing when it is not safe or appropriate for the patient or the healer.
- Give a medical diagnosis to a patient.
- Advise or recommend that a patient undergo a particular form of treatment (for example like an operation or course of drugs) or interfere with the medical advice or treatment which the patient is receiving.

A Registrant is also required to maintain appropriate records of case histories and patients.

Making and maintaining appropriate records is an essential part of care and the Registrant must keep records for everyone who is given Healing.

A Registrant must ensure;

- All records must be complete and legible and dated
- All records are kept for a period of seven years after consultation, and up to the age of 25 in respect of children
- Accurate, relevant, contemporaneous and dated case notes recording a patient's personal details, (name, address, telephone number and date of birth) are kept, including the presenting complaint and symptoms reported by the patient, relevant medical history, any information and advice given, especially when referring a patient to any other health professional
- The consent of next of kin or legal guardian, as required, is kept
- All confidential information concerning patients obtained in the course of professional practice is protected
- Any disclosures are made only with written consent, except where required by order of a court or where disclosure is in the wider public interest, e.g. where a patient may be a danger to themselves or others

These requirements apply even when you have referred the patient on, or you have left the place of work where you gave them the treatment.

A Registrant's patient's case notes and records are the property of the Registrant and must be retained by the Registrant. A patient can seek access to

notes but they have no legal rights of ownership however, if a patient requests a copy of their notes, you must follow the procedure laid out by the Data Protection Act 1998 and keep a record of this on file.

The requirement to retain original records applies. Even with the patient's consent, a Registrant must only pass on copies of the records, not the original notes.

A patient records must be kept secure and confidential at all times. If Registrants keep patient records on a computer or hold manual records only, they must register under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Old records must be disposed of by shredding.

A Registrant must make appropriate arrangements for the safekeeping and transfer or destruction of patient notes in the event of a Registrant's death or serious injury.

Death of patient: Should a patient die, the patient's communications and material remain confidential. Except as may be required by law, these must not be passed on to the next-of-kin, or to any relative, or personal representative of the patient, or to any other third party, unless the patient has left specific instructions for this to happen.

If a Registrant writes case notes in any language other than English it is the Registrant's responsibility to provide a full contemporaneous translation.

When accepting someone for Healing, a Registrant has a duty of care that includes the obligation to take a full medical history and to ascertain whether treatment is being carried out by any other Health Professional and to take this into account when providing healing services.

If supervising students in training, the Registrant should sign any student's entries in the notes.

All information in records must be protected against loss, damage or access by any unauthorised person. Computer-based systems can be used for keeping records but only if they are protected against tampering.

When up-dating a record, existing information must not be erased or made difficult to read. Any information that has become irrelevant must be clearly marked e.g. by drawing a line through it.

Take account of any previous and current treatments received from other Healthcare Professionals when patient needs are assessed or healing is provided.

A Registrant must:

- Ensure, as part of any medical history taken, that they ascertain and take account of any previous and current treatments received from other healthcare professionals when patient needs are assessed
- Ascertain, whenever necessary, that patients have sought medical advice and advise, where appropriate, that they do so.
- Be ready to co-operate with the medical profession

When accepting a referral from another Healthcare Professional, a Registrant must ensure that they fully understand the request and should only accept a referral if they believe it appropriate.

5. Obtain informed, verbal consent prior to the provision of healing services from the recipient or, as appropriate, the legal guardian or carer of the same.

A Registrant must explain to a patient (or appropriate legal guardian or carer) on a first visit, how they give Healing and how it might generally be experienced. Specifically, in explaining Healing, a Registrant is required to advise a patient that Healers have an understanding that individuals have a physical body surrounded by an energy field and when a person becomes unwell physically, emotionally or mentally, this has an unbalancing effect on that person's energy field. A Healer channels energy through their hands, which allows the energy field to rebalance, which in turn, eases symptoms in the physical body. Benefits can be seen in the physical, emotional and mental state of the patient.

A Registrant must ensure that a record of informed consent is obtained, as part of the Medical Record, prior to a first Healing session.

A registrant must reasonably ensure that informed consent is given prior to each Healing session.

A Registrant must not have a third party present (e.g. a student healer or member of the patient's family) without the patient's specific consent.

6. Maintain proper and effective communications with those using their Healing services, including relevant legal guardians, carers, and other healthcare professionals.

A Registrant must communicate properly and effectively with those using their services or with the appropriate legal guardian or carer. Where appropriate, a Registrant should communicate, co-operate, and share their knowledge and expertise with professional colleagues for the benefit of those using their services.

7. Effectively supervise any tasks properly assigned to others to carry out as part of a training course provided by the Guild.

8. Whenever tasks are assigned to other persons to carry out on the Registrant's behalf, the Registrant must ensure that those persons have the skills, knowledge and experience to carry out the task safely and effectively. If they are not Registrant Healers or Health Professionals, they must not be asked to do the work of a Registrant Healer. If they are Registrant Healers, they should not be asked to do work that is outside their scope of practice. If they are training to be a Registrant Healer, the Registrant should ensure that they are capable of carrying out the task effectively and safely. Whoever is asked to carry out the task, the Registrant must always continue to give adequate and appropriate supervision and maintain responsibility for the outcome.

9. Limit their work to what is reasonable and appropriate, or stop practising altogether, if they have reason to believe that their performance or judgement is being adversely affected by their mental or physical health.

A Registrant should inform the Guild about significant changes to their mental or physical health and any changes they make to their mode of practice.

The Registrant has a duty to take action if their health could be harming their fitness to practice. The Guild can take appropriate action against any Registrant if their mental or physical health is harming their fitness to practice and the registrant does not take action to rectify this. The Registrant should always seek advice from a suitably qualified medical practitioner and act upon it. This advice should consider whether and in what ways the Registrant should change their mode of practice, including stopping practising if necessary.

10. Ensure they maintain adequate, current and valid insurance cover for public and professional indemnity for themselves and ensure that such cover is relevant to all situations and places where the Registrant provides Healing.

Adequate insurance cover is defined within the Insurance section of the Standards.

C. STANDARDS OF ETHICS

1. The Registrant must carry out all duties in a professional and ethical way.

Those using their services are entitled to receive good and safe standards of practice and care. The Guild acts to protect the public from unprofessional and unethical behaviour and aims to ensure that Registrants understand the standards they are expected to meet.

A Registrant must take responsibility for the relationship they have with their patients and ensure that the trust placed in them is upheld.

A Registrant should never ask a patient to remove any clothing other than coat, shoes or other incidental items.

A Registrant must produce details of their professional identification and qualification when asked by a patient.

2. The Registrant must behave with integrity and honesty.

Registrants must ensure that they behave with integrity and honesty and maintain high standards of personal and professional conduct at all times.

3. The Registrant must ensure that their behaviour does not harm the profession's reputation.

4. The Registrant must not engage in any behaviour or activity that is likely to harm the profession's reputation or undermine public confidence in the Healing profession.

D: INSURANCE

All Registrants are required to carry up to date, fully paid up and adequate insurance that provides a minimum £2m policy cover. The policy must state provision for Professional Indemnity and Public Liability and provision for professional treatments.

E: DATA PROTECTION

1. Registrants are required to be aware of and abide by the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 in relation to all patient records obtained and kept.
2. The Principles are set out in the Guild's Medical History & Data Protection Guidelines.

F: CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Registrants are required to undertake a specified number of hours of Continuing Professional development, as defined by the Guild's Standards of Education & Training.

G: PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING OF SERVICES

1. A Registrant that is currently registered, in good standing, with the Guild may use the following designation(s), depending upon level of Guild membership, in any relevant communication or literature, including promotional or advertising literature:

Member Guild of Professional Healers or Associate Member Guild of Professional Healers

2. A Registrant's literature must be honest, may include information about non healing therapy qualifications, training or related special interests but must not makes any claims of superiority or disparage any other disciplines or healthcare practices or practitioners.
3. A Registrant's literature must not create unjustified expectations about the length or type of treatment or its prospects for relieving any relevant condition. Claims to cure conditions, as distinct from relieving symptoms, are strictly prohibited.

It is an offence to publish any advertisement which:

- Offers to treat or prescribe a remedy or advice for cancer, or
- Refers to any article calculated to lead to its use in the treatment of cancer.

A Registrant may not use titles or descriptions for themselves or their treatment that may mislead the public.

H: COMPLAINTS AND FITNESS TO PRACTICE

1. The Guild's Complaints and Fitness to Practice Code (the "Complaints & FTP Code") shall be deemed to be incorporated into these standards and Registrants are required to abide by the same.

2. The Complaints & FTP Code is a set of procedures that will be used by the Guild whenever a written complaint about a Registrant is received by the Guild. A Registrant who is the subject of a complaint is required to co-operate fully with the Guild when called upon to do so, making all reasonable attempts to comply with the procedures and any applicable timescales.

I: RESEARCH

1. If a Registrant is involved in research involving patients, they must seek the approval of an appropriate research ethics committee, if available. A Registrant must also obtain a patient's informed consent if they are involved in such research and must ensure above all that a patient's care is not compromised in order to meet the needs of a Registrant's research aims.

2. A Registrant must also ensure that the patient's confidentiality is respected in the sharing or publication of research findings. If the results of research cannot be aggregated in such a way as to conceal the identity of individual patients, any consent obtained from the patient for the use of such results must be based on full details of the distribution, publication and ownership of these results. If a patient refuses consent for the disclosure of research results this choice must be respected.

J. ANIMALS

1. In providing any Healing to animals, before treating an animal, Registrants must seek assurance from the owner that the animal has been examined by a Veterinary Surgeon (VS) .In the event that the animal has not been seen by VS, the owner must be advised to seek the opinion of a vet before the animal receives healing.
2. The VS remains in charge of the case and the Registrant should not countermand any instructions for medicines given by the VS.
3. The Registrant shall not suggest a medical diagnosis or advise any course of veterinary treatment

NOTICE

This Code has been written and published in the English language. The Guild is aware that some of its Registrants use English as a second language, as will some patients. In order to ensure that the provisions of this Code are understood and complied with by all of its Registrant members and that its requirements can be understood by all members of the general public, the Guild has adopted the following principle:

It is the responsibility of every Registrant to read and familiarise themselves with the English language version of this Code, employing at their own expense translation services where necessary, and to be able to explain satisfactorily to the patients, if asked, the main requirements of the Code.