

SEVENTH SCHEDULE
(Section 22A)

Code of ethics

Interpretation

1. In this code, unless the context otherwise requires, all terms shall have the meaning assigned to them by the Physiotherapists Registration Laws, 1989 to 2004.

Scope of application

2. This code shall be implemented by all registered physiotherapists possessing a licence to practise the profession of physiotherapist.

Professional conduct

3. (1) The physiotherapist must always keep in mind that he is dedicated in the service of people's health and that he must consciously perform his work, in strict compliance with the relevant legislation in force and according to the commands of the physiotherapeutic morals and rules.

(2) The physiotherapist must communicate, inform and cooperate with the attending doctor of the patient, in case medical diagnosis is required and/or the patient is undergoing medical treatment.

Preserving the honor of the profession

4. The physiotherapist must be an example of an honest and respectable person in all aspects of his private and public life.

Duty to the state, the patients etc.

5. (1) The physiotherapist must respond to his role and mission which creates duties and obligations upon him towards:

* See Note at the end of the text.

- (i) the state,
- (ii) the patients,
- (iii) the profession and to each of his colleagues.

(2) Every physiotherapist must provide his services to the patients in such conscientious and diligent manner as befits a registered physiotherapist.

Compliance with the code of ethics

6. Every physiotherapist must strictly comply with the code of ethics intended to guarantee and ensure the proper exercise of the profession.

Obligation to comply with the legislation in force

7. The physiotherapist must comply with the legislation in force for the time being.

Integral and intact professional independence

8. The physiotherapist shall not be allowed to compromise his scientific and professional independence, which he must maintain integral and intact.

Prohibition of unlawful collaboration

9. Partnership or any other unlawful collaboration between the physiotherapist and doctors or other persons, aimed at extracting unacceptable fees against the patient shall be prohibited.

Covering illegalities

10. The physiotherapist must not afford, or allow or offer to cover or otherwise protect persons who aim at practising physiotherapy illegally, or have any collaboration with such persons.

Chase of customers

11. The physiotherapist must not use deceitful or undignified means in order to chase customers.

Compliance with decisions of the Board of the Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists

12. The physiotherapist must comply with the decisions of the Board of the Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists.

Professional confidentiality

13.(1) The physiotherapist must strictly adhere to medical and professional confidentiality and must respect, without time limitation, the confidentiality of any information or data which is brought to his knowledge in the course of his work.

(2) The physiotherapist must keep within the medical record any written, electronic and/or other information, notes or reports concerning the patient including the results of medical or X-ray examination.

(3) Should a patient make an accusation against the physiotherapist, or the physiotherapist is facing disciplinary charges, then the latter shall be entitled to disclose any confidential information entrusted to him in relation to the accusation or charges, even if such action compromises medical confidentiality:

Provided that, the above shall not apply if the patient is under the responsibility of two or more physiotherapists.

International obligations of physiotherapists

(1) In cases where the physiotherapist is permitted to practise physiotherapy abroad, he must adhere to the code of ethics of the state in which he practises.

(2) In the case that a foreign physiotherapist is allowed or licenced to practise physiotherapy in the Republic, he must adhere to the present code of ethics and in case of contravention thereof, he shall be subject to disciplinary prosecution.

Advertisement – Publicity

15. (1) Any legitimate advertisement, publicity and promotion of the professional activity of the physiotherapist or his physiotherapy establishment in Cyprus and abroad

shall be allowed to the extent and degree prescribed in the present Regulations and in a manner compatible with the decency of the profession.

(2) No personal advertisement of the physiotherapist in any way, no public mention of his name or any propaganda for that name instigated by himself or in his knowledge shall be allowed.

(3) In cases where third persons or businesses or sanatoria or hospitals or institutes or clinics, or otherwise, use the name of a physiotherapist for any form of promotion thereof, then he must respond to immediately stop this propaganda.

(4) The physiotherapist shall be allowed to write and/or otherwise publish articles or projects that serve scientific purposes in general and the promotion of the profession.

(5) Advertisements relating to physiotherapy shall be allowed in the daily press, provided that the title and expertise is mentioned, only in any of the following cases:

- (i) Establishment of a physiotherapist in a place of practice;
- (ii) moving a physiotherapy establishment;
- (iii) changing the telephone number or the working hours;
- (iv) absence of the physiotherapist for more than one week and subsequent return.

(6) The texts of such advertisements must not occupy a space greater than three inches height in two columns. The advertisements regarding the establishment may be published in one issue of one or more newspapers and the remaining advertisements in four issues of one or more newspapers.

(7) A physiotherapist shall not be allowed to promote or allow or otherwise be involved in the distribution or publication of advertising leaflets or texts in the mass media or to post or suspend advertising notices or signs in any public place.

(8) A physiotherapist may state in the sign only:

- (i) his name;
- (ii) the name of the physiotherapy establishment;
- (iii) his academic qualifications;
- (iv) the name of the university faculty from which he has obtained his diploma;
- (v) the days and hours of operation of the physiotherapy establishment:
 Provided that, flashy decoration of the signs shall be forbidden;
- (vi) the approved emblem of the Association.

(9) The correspondence paper and seals may only contain the following:

- (i) the particulars of the sign;
- (ii) the address and telephone numbers of the physiotherapy establishment;
- (iii) the address of the physiotherapist's residence.

Duties to the patients

16. The physiotherapist must demonstrate the same care, diligence and devotion, to all patients in general, irrespective of the financial condition and social status of each one of them and irrespective of his personal feelings. In no case physiotherapists or other persons are allowed to use the means and potential of physiotherapy as a science for immoral pursuits.

Respect to the patient's wishes

17. The physiotherapist is bound and obliged to respect the right of a patient who wishes to replace him with another physiotherapist.

Refusal to provide treatment

18. The physiotherapist may refuse to provide treatment to a patient:

 Provided that, in cases of emergency or humanitarian duty the physiotherapist must not refuse to do so.

Obligation to colleagues

19.(1) Every physiotherapist is bound and obliged to maintain friendly relations with his colleagues and shall refrain from any action aimed at harming their status, dignity or lawful interests.

(2) A physiotherapist shall have a moral obligation and is bound to defend the professional dignity of his colleagues from any form of slander or criticism.

(3) A physiotherapist shall be expressly forbidden to visit a patient treated by his colleague without the latter's knowledge or explicit consent, unless that patient has fully dismissed the attending physiotherapist and has settled all pending financial obligations towards him:

Provided that, the above shall apply for societies, unions, federations, organizations e.t.c.

(4) A physiotherapist may not express opinion on whether any reward set or collected by his colleague, are reasonable or not, unless with the consent and/or order of the Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists.

Informing the Association for breaches of ethics

20. If a physiotherapist becomes aware of acts or omissions of a colleague harmful to the health of a patient or contrary to the morals and honor of the body of physiotherapists, he must relatively inform the administration of the Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists as promptly as possible.

Reward

21.(1) The Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists shall have the power to prescribe maximum and minimum reward for services provided by physiotherapists.

(2) A physiotherapist may choose not to accept any reward from indigent patients:

Provided that, any person receiving, by law or regulation, social security or medical care shall not be considered indigent as far as the physiotherapist is concerned.

(3) (a) Any systematic and deliberate reduction of the amount of reward, by average most common in the field, shall be considered as an act of illegitimate competition towards the colleagues and lack of respect to the dignity of the profession.

(b) Any person who contravenes the above shall be subject to disciplinary prosecution.

Prohibition of bribery

22. A physiotherapist shall not be allowed to offer percentages to medical practitioners or physiotherapists in cases of referring patients and must be confined to the direct collection of his reward.

Collective agreements

23. Only the Pancyprian Association of Physiotherapists may negotiate collective agreements.

Change of address

24. A physiotherapist must, whenever he changes his address, forthwith inform and in any case not later than two months the secretary of the Pancyprian Association of Cyprus Physiotherapists.