

The Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation Industry's

Principles of Professionalism

Competence: Professionals function to the best of their knowledge and skill. They only render services and employ techniques in which they are qualified by training and experience. They recognize their limitations, and seek to reduce them by expanding their expertise. Professionals continuously enhance their knowledge and skills through continuing education and by remaining informed of professional trends, issues, and developments. They maintain the education and experience necessary to appropriately serve clients.

Honesty: Professionals are truthful. They honestly represent and act within their knowledge and abilities. In areas of professional competency and authority they practice without exaggeration, misrepresentation or concealment.

Their communications are sufficiently complete, accurate, and clear in order for clients and other relevant individuals to understand the intent and implications of service. They are guided by truth, fairness and integrity in their professional decisions and relationships. They behave in a positive, constructive manner and avoid actions which are or could be perceived as a conflict of interest, or for inappropriate personal gain.

Privacy: Professionals respect the privacy of individuals. Communications are kept confidential except with the explicit consent of the client or where the welfare of the client or others is clearly imperiled. Clients are informed of the nature and the scope of confidentiality.

Professional Practices: Professionals provide quality services based on the highest professional standards and abide by the standards set by the profession. Accurate records are maintained.

Care is used in administering tests and other measurement instruments. They are used only for their express purposes. The nature of all practices, including tests and measurements, are explained to clients prior to implementation. Clients are informed of the test results and the implications of those results for the client.

All professional practices are conducted for the safety, well-being and best interest of the client. Professionals practice within the scope of their education and knowledge.

Obligation of the Professional to the Profession: Professionals work to increase and improve the profession's body of knowledge by supporting and by conducting research. Research is practiced according to accepted canons and ethics of scientific inquiry. Where clients are involved, their welfare is paramount. Prior permission is gained from subjects to participate in research. They are informed of the general nature of the research and any specific risks that may be involved. Subjects are informed at the conclusion of the research, and are provided with results of the study on request. Professional writing/publishing is done with appropriate citation of the work of others and without plagiarism.

Professionals treat the profession with critical respect. They strive to protect, preserve, and promote the integrity of the profession and its commitment to public service

Professionals are committed to regular and continuous evaluation of the profession. Changes are implemented that improve the professional's ability to serve the profession.

Respect Diverse Values: Professionals embrace and foster an inclusive climate of respect for all people regardless of national origin, race, religion, sex, marital status, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental impairment.

Safe Environment: Professionals provide a safe participation environment. They work to ensure a clean, well-lit, ventilated facility that meets all governmental regulations and standards. They use and maintain equipment according to the manufacturers instructions. They work appropriately with lifeguard personnel, and establish and use emergency action plans.

They use the guidelines provided by a competent, certified infection control professional to determine appropriate referrals in order to assure safety for all participating staff and clients.

Summary:

Adherence to the Aquatic Therapy and Rehabilitation Industry *Principles of Practice* and *Code of Ethics* signifies professionalism, competence, fair dealing and high integrity.