



COLONIC HYDROTHERAPY is a form of water treatment for the elimination of bowel waste and exercise of the large intestine. It aims to restore health and wellbeing and is part of a Naturopathic approach to bowel management.

THE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL COLON HYDROTHERAPISTS CODE OF ETHICS AND PRACTICE

This code of Ethics and Practice has been designed to standardise professional and personal conduct to ensure quality of service from members of IPCH

1. GENERAL:

- ✓ Members must be Registered with the Association and Register of Colon Hydrotherapists (ARCH)
- ✓ Members should practice their profession with integrity and dignity. They shall conduct themselves in a professional way and shall not bring the profession into disrepute.
- ✓ The highest standards must be maintained in conduct, in the care of the patient and in professional expertise.
- ✓ National and local legislation must be adhered to.
- ✓ Members should hold a valid Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate
- ✓ Full Professional Indemnity Insurance to the value of Four Million and Public Liability Insurance should be held and maintained at all time.
- ✓ Members should not use the title "Doctor" with reference to their colonic practice, unless it is a genuine medical qualification, in which case the full title of the degree and its origin should be stated.
- ✓ Members should not refer to an assistant as "nurse", unless they hold a nursing qualification recognised by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing and Midwifery.
- ✓ Members should not make a physical examination of or treat a child under the age of 16 years without a letter of referral from their GP, paediatrician or other health care specialist. A minor must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

If treatment is indicated, the following signed statement must be obtained prior to the treatment:

I have been warned by that according to the law I should consult a doctor concerning the health of my child (name of child)

Signed (parent or guardian)

Signed (witness)

- ✓ Therapists shall report research findings and clinical experience methodically, honestly and without distortion. Speculative theories shall be stated to be so.
- ✓ Members have an obligation to continue their professional development by attending seminars, study days, educational courses, etc. in related subjects
- ✓ Members have an obligation to regularly take time for self-reflective practice.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH PATIENTS:

- ✓ A Member shall be free to choose whom he/she shall serve professionally.
- ✓ Member shall never betray the confidence of a patient, nor divulge diagnostic findings acquired during a consultation or in the course of professional treatment to anyone without the consent of the patient, except when required to do so by law, or where failure to take action would constitute a menace or danger to the patient or to another member of the community.
The practitioner must also resist the temptation to divulge that an eminent person is his patient.
- ✓ Having accepted a patient in the course of his practice, a Member shall not neglect or abandon the case before recovery, without due notice to the patient, his relatives or friends, or until another practitioner has accepted responsibility.
- ✓ When a patients' condition, or lack of progress, gives cause for concern, a Member should not hesitate to call for a second opinion, either from another Member or from another appropriate practitioner or specialist. A Member so called as consultant shall communicate only through the Member in charge of the case, and not directly to the patient or their relatives.
- ✓ A Member shall not suggest that a patient is worse than he/she really is, or that he/she has a condition not evidently present, and not make any promises nor give any guarantee of the results of treatment.
- ✓ On deciding to retire or move from a practice, Members must inform all current patients of their intention, and of any arrangements made for the transfer of the practice and patient's records to another therapist. Records should be kept for a minimum of Seven (7) years even if the Member has retired without transferring his/her practice to another therapist.
- ✓ A testimonial or commendatory letter should never be solicited, but if one is spontaneously forthcoming, it should not be exhibited or passed on and certainly not published, without the patient's consent.
- ✓ Members are expected to charge reasonable fees comparable with those of their fellow Members and other professionals. Where a case is taken on a reduced fee basis, the quality of the service should be unchanged.
- ✓ Members shall not divert colonic treatment to laboratory testing or another therapy unless clinically indicated, and shall give a detailed account of the procedure and costs involved before obtaining consent from the patient.

3. PREMISES:

- ✓ All premises must adhere to health and safety regulations. If working from home it is the Member's responsibility to ensure compliance with local authority regulations and health and safety regulations. If working from a clinic this is usually undertaken by the proprietor/practice manager but it is still good practice for the Member to verify that local authority regulations and health and safety requirements are complied with. The proprietor must ensure full compliance with this code of practice.
- ✓ A First Aid kit must be kept on the premises and members must hold a valid first aid certificate
- ✓ Arrangements should be available so that clients may wait in comfort. The waiting area must be clean and tidy at all times. Appointments should be made to avoid too much overlap or lengthy waiting. It is recommended that a minimum of one and a half hours be allowed for the first consultation; follow-up sessions should be at least 75minutes.
- ✓ An en-suite toilet is preferable; otherwise the toilet must be conveniently located near the treatment room and reserved solely for client's use during working hours. A sanitary waste system or a waste bin with disposable liner must be provided for the disposal of sanitary towels and soiled articles. A bidet, whilst not essential is desirable; otherwise wet wipes must be provided. Liquid soap in a pump dispenser and disposable paper, or single use, towels should be provided.

- ✓ The treatment room must be adequately lighted, heated and ventilated. If electric heaters or cooling fans are used, they must comply with health and safety guidelines. Gas heaters must have adequate ventilation as required by law. A sink or large hand basin with hot and cold running water must be located in the treatment room and preferably near the tank or machine as appropriate. Lever taps are strongly recommended. Dispenser liquid soap and disposable paper towels are required to be at the hand basin. Floor surfaces must be durable, impervious, non-slip and washable: sealed cork, vinyl sheeting, laminate or tiles.

4. DISPOSAL OF WASTE

- ✓ Colon hydrotherapy falls under the category of clinical waste. Clinical waste is defined in the Controlled Waste Regulations 1992 as meaning "... (a) – 'any waste which consists wholly or partly of human or animal tissue, blood or other bodily fluids, excretions, drugs or other pharmaceutical products, swabs or dressings, or syringes, needles or other sharp instruments, being waste which unless rendered safe may prove hazardous to any person coming into contact with it'. You should contact your local environmental health department to see what is required regarding the removal of waste in your area. If you are required to have it removed for incineration or deep landfill you can find a list of registered contractors in your area on the Environmental Agencies website (See Resources).

5. RECORD KEEPING

- ✓ Full, clear and legible records of the case history, treatments, treatment plan, results and progress should be kept in writing. All notes should be written in ink (for accurate photocopying). Any errors should be crossed out with a single line and initialed and dated by the practitioner. Correction fluid must not be used. All record sheets should contain the patients name and the pages should be sequentially numbered.
- ✓ Records must be stored in a lockable secure cabinet/place so that no one, other than the therapist, or person authorized by the therapist, may have access to them at any time.
- ✓ If stored on computer disk or other electronic devices, these shall be made equally secure, protected from accidental erasure and backed up. You must be registered with the Information Officer under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) when necessary (See Resources).
- ✓ Records must be kept for at least 7 years after completion of treatment.

6. PROCEDURE IN EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS:

- ✓ The patient should at all times be prepared in an appropriate manner for the examination or treatment to be received. An explanation of the treatment and provision of suitable attire (gown/towel) is mandatory.
- ✓ Any type of physical examination should be undertaken only with the full consent of the patient, and signed consent should be taken.
- ✓ A case history should be taken and recorded This should include Name, Address, telephone number, Date of Birth, essential details of medical history, dates of treatment and details of treatments. Physical examination procedures should be carried out as relevant to the case.
- ✓ A Member shall not consent to induce abortion or sterility, or to attempt to do so by any means whatsoever.

7. MALPRACTICE:

- ✓ In the case of threatened legal proceedings being taken against a Member by a patient, the following procedure should be followed as advised by the Association's Insurance Brokers:
 1. Do not admit or acknowledge anything.

2. Have no communication whatsoever with the complainant but report all circumstances immediately to your insurance broker
3. It is recommended that a legal representative should be present at any interviews, and that statements should not be made without the advice of such an authority.

8. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS:

- ✓ There should be close co-operation among members and no sense of competition between them.
- ✓ A Member shall not criticise, condemn or belittle a colleague in the presence of a patient or other layman.
- ✓ A Member shall not undertake a case which, to his knowledge, is under the care of another Member, except with the consent of that Member Nor shall he/she use any means to persuade a patient to leave another Member to become his patient
- ✓ When a Member undertakes the treatment of a patient because the patient's own practitioner is not available, he should render all assistance he can. At the earliest opportunity, he should return the patient to his own practitioner and supply his colleague with relevant details of the case whilst under his care.
- ✓ If a patient moves to another district or for any reason desires to change from one Member to another, he or she shall always be free to do so. Detailed patients records shall be forwarded directly to the Member newly in charge.
- ✓ A Member shall not accept any form of commission or split fees in cases referred by a colleague, nor shall he offer any reduction of fees for the purpose of enticing patients from another Member.
- ✓ A Member shall respond graciously to a request from any colleague requiring his professional opinion
- ✓ Where acting as an assistant or locum, a Member may not procure for the benefit of another practice any patients of the principal's practice, neither for the duration nor within six months of the termination of the agreement, without written consent of the principal.
- ✓ Only a fully Registered and Insured Therapist may act as an assistant or locum to another registered therapist.
- ✓ Where a therapist has good reason to believe a fellow therapist has committed misconduct or has any complaint whatsoever about him/her, a confidential report should be made to the Institute of Professional Colon Hydrotherapy with copy to The Chair of ARCH so that the matter can be handled in a coordinated fashion between IPCH and its verifier.

9. RELATIONSHIP WITH PRACTITIONERS:

- ✓ In the interest of professional unity and public goodwill, Members are advised against speaking or writing disparagingly of others associated with the healing arts, including the medical profession and qualified Colonic Therapists who are not registered

10. PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ADVERTISING:

- ✓ No member practitioner should undertake to diagnose and/or treat a patient without the patient presenting in person at the consultative interview and examination.
- ✓ Members shall not advertise or conduct any training in Colon Hydrotherapy unless authorised to do so by ARCH who verifies training for IPCH in accordance with CNHC regulations.
- ✓ A Member shall not advertise by the use of handbills, circulars or posters, the press, radio or TV without first ensuring that the advertisement complies with regulations as per ARCH/CNHC
- ✓ Any sign or name-plate shall be in conformity with professional dignity. Letter-headings, cards and account forms shall be in a strictly professional style.
- ✓ Members may write articles, give public lectures, or conduct adult education classes, etc. of an instructive and educational nature, or use broadcasting media, attend exhibitions, for the

same purpose, providing participation is conducted in a legal, decent and honest manner, and providing the professional practice is promoted rather than the individual.

- ✓ Members shall not use their membership qualifications together with their names for the commercialising of any product without prior consent.
- ✓ Members shall not disclose confidential matters pertaining to the IPCH and its business
- ✓ A Member shall not at any time intentionally misinform a patient as to his professional qualifications.
- ✓ A Member may use the initials "R. C. T." - Registered Colonic Therapist and put the IPCH training logo on their website

11. DISCIPLINARY AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES:

- ✓ Membership to the IPCH is subject to general good practice and ethical conduct. A breach of the above constitutes material for refusing membership.
- ✓ In case of difficulties with a patient, Members should take time to appraise situation fully and discuss with a senior registered member or tutor at the earliest possible time.
- ✓ In case of complain about a Member, patients are advised to contact their insurer directly. The IPCH is verified by The Association and Register of Colon Hydrotherapists (ARCH) which is regulated by The Complementary and Natural Health Care Council.