



The Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists

# Code of Ethics

## **Preamble**

The preservation of the highest standards of integrity and ethical principles is vital to the successful discharge of the professional responsibilities of all speech therapists. This Code of Ethics has been promulgated by the Association in an effort to stress the fundamental rules considered essential to this basic purpose. Any action that is in violation of the spirit and purpose of the Code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify and particular responsibility or practice in the Code of Ethics shall not be construed as denial of the existence of other responsibilities or practices.

The fundamental rules of professional conduct are described in detail as six principle ethics with points of clarification.

## **Principle of Ethics I**

Individuals shall hold paramount the welfare of persons served professionally.

A. Individuals shall use every resource available, including referral to other specialists as needed to provide the best service possible.

B. Individuals shall fully inform persons served of the nature and possible effects of the services.

C. Individuals shall fully inform subjects participating in research or teaching activities of the nature and possible effects of these activities. Consent from subjects is necessary. Subjects shall reserve the right to withdraw from the activity at any time.



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- D. Individuals' fees shall be commensurate with services rendered.
- E. Individuals shall provide appropriate access to records of persons served professionally.
- F. Individuals shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid injuring persons in the delivery of professional services.
- G. Individuals shall evaluate services rendered to determine effectiveness.
- H. Individuals must not exploit persons in the delivery of professional services, including accepting persons for treatment when benefit cannot reasonably be expected or continuing treatment unnecessarily.
- I. Individuals must not guarantee the results of any therapeutic procedures, directly or by implication. A reasonable statement of prognosis may be made, but caution must be exercised not to mislead persons served professionally to expect results that cannot be predicted from sound evidence.
- J. Individuals must not evaluate or treat speech, language or hearing disorders except in a professional relationship. They must not evaluate or treat solely by correspondence. This does not preclude follow-up correspondence with persons previously seen, nor providing them with general information of an educational nature.
- K. Individual must not reveal to unauthorized persons any professional or personal information obtained from the person served professionally, unless required by law or unless necessary to protect the welfare of the person or the community.
- L. Individuals must not charge for service not rendered.

## **Principle of Ethics II**

Individual shall maintain high standards of professional competence.

- A. Individuals engaging in clinical practice or supervision thereof shall hold the appropriate qualification.



## The Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists

- B. Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.
- C. Individuals shall identify competent, dependable referral sources for persons served professionally.
- D. Individuals shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered.
- E. Individuals must neither provide clinical services nor supervision of services for which they have not been properly prepared, nor permit services to be provided by any of their staff who are not properly prepared.
- F. Individuals shall provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility for clinical services offered by support personnel.
- G. Individuals shall not require anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that is violation of the Code of Ethics.
- H. Individuals when making recommendations for their subjects should not be influenced by concern for their own professional advantage or pecuniary interests.

### **Principle of Ethics III**

Individuals' statements to persons served professionally and to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communicative disorders and about the profession and services rendered by its practitioners.

- A. Individuals must not misrepresent their training or competence.
- B. Individuals' public statements providing information about professional services and products must not contain representations or claims that are false, deceptive or misleading. The statements should not stand for Association policy, unless nominated by a committee member.



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C. Individuals must not use professional or commercial affiliations in any way that would mislead or limit services to persons served professionally.

D. Individuals shall not make any public statements claiming any superiority for the member or any or all other members.

E. Individuals in private practice shall display proof of their qualifications at the place of business.

**Principle of Ethics IV**

A. Individuals who dispense products to persons served professionally shall observe the following standards:

(1) Products associated with professional practice must be dispensed to the person served as a part of a program comprehensive habilitative care.

(2) Fees established for professional services must be independent of whether a product is dispensed.

(3) Persons served must be provided freedom of choice for source of service and products.

(4) Price information about professional services rendered and products dispensed must be disclosed by providing to or posting for persons served a complete schedule of fees and charges in advance of rendering services, which schedule differentiates between fees for professional services and charges for products dispensed.

(5) Products dispensed to the person served must be evaluated to determine effectiveness.



The Hong Kong Association of Speech Therapists

### **Principle of Ethics V**

Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the public, their profession, and their relationships with colleagues and members of allied professions.

- A. Individuals shall seek to provide and expand services to persons with speech, language and hearing handicaps as well as to assist in establishing high professional standards for such programs.
- B. Individuals should educate the public about speech, language and hearing problems, and matters related to professional competence.
- C. Individuals should strive to increase knowledge within the profession and share research with colleagues.
- D. Individuals should establish harmonious relations with colleagues and members of other professions, and endeavor to inform members of related professions of services provided by speech therapists, as well as seek information from them.
- E. Individuals should assign credit to those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their contribution.

### **Principle of Ethics VI**

Individual shall uphold the dignity of the profession and freely accept the profession's self-imposed standards.

- A. Individuals shall inform the Committees when they have reason to believe that a member may have violated to the Code of Ethics.
- B. Individuals shall cooperate fully either the Committee concerning matters of professional conduct related to this Code of Ethics.



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C. Individuals shall not engage in violations of the Principles of Ethics or in any attempt to circumvent any of them.

D. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or other forms of illegal conduct that adversely reflect on the profession or the individuals' fitness for membership in the profession.

**(The above Code of Ethics was approved at AGM on 16 September 1994)**