



College of
Chiropractors
of Ontario

Code of Ethics

Reviewed and Updated: October 9, 2025

INDEX

Introduction	2
Principles of the Code	3
Accountability to Patients and the Public.....	3
Accountability of the Registrant	5
Accountability to Colleagues and the Profession.....	6
References	7

Introduction

The College of Chiropractors of Ontario (the “College”) has a statutory duty to serve and protect the public interest. One way this obligation is advanced is by developing standards of practice for all Chiropractors and Podiatrists in Ontario, which includes standards of professional ethics for registrants.

The *Code of Ethics* (the “Code”) is a practice standard. It reflects the College’s expectations that all Registrants (and those preparing to enter the profession) will engage in safe and ethical practice, and the duties that Registrants have to patients, employers, colleagues, the public, and the College. It explains what the public can expect from Registrants.

The Code provides direction and guidance in responsible conduct, and ethical and moral behaviour in professional practice. All Registrants are expected to comply with the Code (and all practice standards) regardless of their role, title, responsibility, and/or practice setting. To maintain public trust and confidence in the chiroprody/podiatry profession, the Code outlines safe and ethical practice requirements based on current evidence, and is informed by legislation, including the *Human Rights Code*, and recommendations in the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action (2015)*.

The College considers the Code in regulatory processes, such as Complaints, Discipline, and the Quality Assurance program.

Principles of the Code

The principles of the Code are:

- Accountability
- Confidentiality
- Consent
- Dignity
- Effective communication
- Integrity
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Continuing education
- Trust

The Code reflects the profession's commitment to providing the highest level of Chiropractic/Podiatry care to the public.

For those outside the profession, the Code helps to instill confidence in the profession by setting out the high standards of ethical conduct and care expected in the practice of Chiropractic and Podiatry.

Accountability to Patients and the Public

The public is entitled to safe, effective, and ethical care performed by knowledgeable, skilled, accountable practitioners in accordance with the professional standards of the College.

Each Registrant will provide individualized, comprehensive, and safe care, recognizing the patient's particular needs, and respecting their cultural background and diversity.

Registrants must:

1. Maintain and apply current and relevant knowledge and skills.
2. Obtain informed consent from patients, or from their substitute decision-makers when patients are unable to do so, as set out in the *Health Care Consent Act, 1996*.
3. Record and update all patient information, assessment, treatment, and test results (in accordance with the **Records** standard of practice), and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of all clinical records as required by the [Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004](#).
4. Recognize the importance of privacy and confidentiality, and safeguard personal, family and community information obtained in the context of a professional relationship.
5. Demonstrate respect for the physical and emotional well-being of patients.
6. Listen and respond to patients' concerns.
7. Not abuse a patient physically, sexually, psychologically, verbally, emotionally, or financially.
8. Not provide care when impaired by any substance or any illness that could put patients at risk.
9. Not provide care to a patient while in a conflict of interest.
10. Never place personal gain ahead of their professional responsibilities.

11. Communicate complete, accurate information (about assessment, treatment and care) clearly to patients either verbally, non-verbally and/or in writing.
12. Act in the best interest of patients by respecting their care preferences, choices, and decisions, and recognizing that a patient has the right to accept or reject any Chiropractor/Podiatrist and/or any treatment recommendations.
13. Not exploit any relationship to further the Registrant's own physical, psychological, emotional, financial, political or business interest.
14. Maintain a respectful relationship with members of the public to facilitate awareness and understanding of the profession of Chiropractic/Podiatry.
15. Not recommend unnecessary procedures or bill a patient excessively in relation to the services or devices provided or bill a patient for any professional service not rendered.
16. Assist patients to find another regulated health professional when the condition or the patients' needs falls outside a Registrant's scope of practice, education, or experience.

Inclusive Health Care

17. Treat all patients with respect, empathy, and compassion.
18. Recognize that many factors and personal attributes, including those outlined in the *Human Rights Code*, may impact a patient, their lived experience, and their perspective on health care.
19. Not act on any stereotypes or assumptions they may have about patients.
20. Address patients by their preferred name, title, and pronoun.
21. Advocate for equitable, inclusive, and culturally safe care that is free from discrimination.
22. Be aware of their positionality and any privileges they hold, understand the impact of power imbalances on the practitioner-patient relationship, and strive to provide culturally safe care.
23. Recognize patients' language, cultural and communication needs.
24. Assess patients to determine their risk for health inequities and take steps to ensure the best outcome for the patient.
25. Take action if they witness discrimination against a patient.

Accountability of the Registrant

Registrants must practice in accordance with the scope, authorized acts and standards of practice of the College, (including regulations, guidelines and policies), and within the individual's level of competence. Registrants must continually update professional knowledge and skills and must collaborate with professionals and others as appropriate to enhance their patients' care.

Registrants must:

26. Take accountability for their errors and learn from them.
27. Take accountability for their own decisions, actions, omissions, and related outcomes.
28. Participate in and keep records of their participation in the College's Quality Assurance Program.
29. Not engage in any acts of [professional misconduct](#) or incompetence.
30. Not participate in any arrangement that could be considered a conflict of interest.
31. Self-reflect on their health and inform the College if their health is affecting their ability to practice safely and competently.
32. Maintain complete, accurate and timely records in accordance with the College's Records standard.
33. Acknowledge a patient's right to consult with other health care professionals.

Education and training

34. Participate in professional development and continuing education and integrate relevant learning into their practice.
35. Maintain current knowledge of legislation relevant to their legal scope of practice and their authorized acts.
36. Remain updated on advances in research and incorporate established results into practice.
37. Develop and maintain professional collaborative relationships and exchange knowledge and information as required in the interest of a patient's health while respecting patient privacy, confidentiality and legislation related to consent to treatment.
38. Continually seek to improve their ability to provide patients with culturally safe care that is free from discrimination.

39. Undertake continuous education in many areas, including indigenous health care, cultural safety, and anti-racism.
40. Always act respectfully and professionally towards peers and other health professionals and not discredit the chiropody/podiatry profession, fellow practitioners or the College, including on social media.

Accountability to Colleagues and the Profession

Registrants must maintain the standards of practice and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. Registrants must comply with the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA), the *Chiropody Act, 1991* and the Regulations, By-laws, standards of practice, guidelines, advisories and policies of the College, and as required, to maintain and continually improve professional competency that will ensure the delivery of safe quality care.

Registrants must:

41. Recognize that self-regulation is a privilege, and that each Registrant has a continuing responsibility to merit the retention of the privilege.
42. Maintain professional integrity and conduct all professional activities, programs, and relations honestly and responsibly.
43. Report any error, unsafe behaviour, unethical conduct, or system issues to the relevant individuals, including employers, the College, other regulatory colleges or authorities, whether or not harm has occurred.
44. Not physically, verbally, emotionally, financially, or sexually harass or abuse healthcare team members.
45. Understand the RHPA, the *Chiropody Act 1991*, Regulations, College By-laws, standards, guidelines, and policies, and comply with them.
46. Cooperate with the College, including cooperating in investigations and/or inquiries into the professional misconduct of any registrant of a regulated health profession.
47. Address health care team members by their preferred name, title, and pronoun.
48. Assist other Chiropodists/ Podiatrists and health care professionals as requested or needed.
49. Refrain from engaging in behaviour that could be construed as harassment or abuse of colleagues, associates, employees or the College, including on social media.
50. Demonstrate professionalism and treat all health care team members with respect in all contexts, including on social media.
51. Not publicly communicate health care statements that contradict the best available evidence.

References

[Chiroprody Act, 1991](#)

[Records](#)

[Patient Relations](#)

[College of Nurses of Ontario \(2023\) Code of Conduct](#)

[Health Care Consent Act, 1996, S.O. 1996, c 2.](#)

[Human Rights Code, RSO 1990, c H.19](#)

[Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004, SO 2004, c 3.](#)

[Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, SO 1991, c 18.](#)

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)