

Code of Conduct

I. Introduction and General Overview

The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation ("AAPM&R") is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation exempt from federal income tax pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). AAPM&R is organized and operated to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health through an understanding and utilization of the functions and procedures of physical medicine ("Exempt Purpose").

This Code of Conduct ("Code") was developed by AAPM&R to serve as a guideline for professional conduct, and to promote the highest quality of psychiatric care. The Code is also intended to inform the public, the healthcare community, and all those engaging in psychiatric care of AAPM&R's ethical rules. Public confidence in the integrity, competency, and ability of those providing psychiatric care is fundamental to AAPM&R's Exempt Purpose.

Psychiatrists have significant responsibilities regarding the welfare, well-being, and betterment of their patients. AAPM&R members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner that enhances the overall image of physicians providing psychiatric care. The practice of medicine, and medical licensure, is governed by state law, and, therefore, varies from state to state. AAPM&R members shall be knowledgeable of and comply with the current laws and regulations of the country, state, region, and municipality in which they practice, relating to their medical profession and to their field of expertise. In the event of any inconsistency between any law or regulation and the Code, AAPM&R members shall adhere to the highest standards represented by the applicable law, regulation, or the Code.

II. Adherence to the Code

AAPM&R members shall comply with the Code and AAPM&R bylaws, regulations, policies, and other governing documents (collectively "Governing Documents"). Lack of knowledge of the Governing Documents shall neither excuse a member's noncompliance nor be considered in any AAPM&R action regarding a member's alleged violation of the Code.

III. Ethical Rules

- a. A psychiatrist shall be dedicated to providing the best available patient care that resources and circumstances can provide.
- b. A psychiatrist shall function within the competence and capability of the psychiatrist's training and provide care consistent with standards of care applicable to psychiatry. Psychiatrists should participate in regular continuing education.
- c. A psychiatrist shall only provide patient care the psychiatrist is competent and legally permitted to provide based on the psychiatrist's education, training, experience, and licensure. When the patient's needs exceed the scope of the psychiatrist's education and training, the psychiatrist should consult with or refer the patient to (as appropriate) a practitioner(s) competent to address the patient's needs.
- d. A psychiatrist shall maintain patient medical records as required by: (i) applicable law; (ii) the applicable standard of care; and (iii) as necessary for the patient's health, safety, and wellbeing (collectively "Health"). Except as required or permitted by law or as authorized by the patient, the psychiatrist shall keep patient information private and confidential including, but not limited to, the patient's medical records.
- e. A psychiatrist shall obtain an informed consent from a patient, as required by applicable law, before providing medical care. All relevant information regarding the contemplated medical care must be provided to, and discussed with, the patient in understandable terms.

- f. A psychiatrist shall only provide patient care when physically and mentally able to do so with reasonable judgment, skill, and safety. A psychiatrist shall not provide patient care while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or other substances. A psychiatrist shall seek appropriate assistance to address any addiction, mental health, physical illness, or disability issues that impair the psychiatrist's ability to provide patient care skillfully and safely. The psychiatrist has a responsibility to maintain the psychiatrist's own professional and personal wellbeing.
- g. A psychiatrist should maintain a reputation for truth and honesty. A psychiatrist shall provide patient care with compassion and respect the dignity and rights of the patient. The psychiatrist is in a position of trust and must not betray that trust. Without limiting the foregoing, the psychiatrist must treat patients with respect and not abuse them psychologically, physically, sexually, or financially. A psychiatrist shall not engage in conduct that calls into question the psychiatrist's professionalism, honesty, or integrity, or which could reflect poorly on the practice of psychiatric care.
- h. A psychiatrist's financial or other personal interest is subordinate to the patient's Health. Conflicts between a psychiatrist's personal interest and a patient's Health should be avoided, and resolved consistent with the patient's Health. A psychiatrist shall not pay or accept any form of a patient referral fee or engage in any fee splitting. The psychiatrist shall disclose to a patient any direct or indirect financial interest the psychiatrist has in any medical care, prescriptions, or referrals recommended by the psychiatrist, which are not obvious to a reasonable person.
- i. Neither a psychiatrist nor a patient is under an obligation to enter into a psychiatrist/patient relationship. A psychiatrist/patient relationship may be terminated by the patient. A psychiatrist may also terminate the psychiatrist/patient relationship, but only if doing so will not jeopardize the patient's Health. A psychiatrist shall not neglect or abandon a patient.
- j. A psychiatrist shall comply with: (i) all applicable laws; (ii) AAPM&R's Governing Documents; (iii) the ethical codes of the medical societies, associations, and boards to which the psychiatrist belongs; and (iv) the medical staff bylaws, policies, and procedures of any facility or institution at which the psychiatrist provides medical care. The foregoing compliance requirement applies to all amendments and addenda to said laws, policies, procedures, and AAPM&R current and future Governing Documents.
- k. A psychiatrist shall not make false or misleading statements in advertising or otherwise regarding the psychiatrist's education, training, experience, certifications, affiliations, competence, licensure, or services. A psychiatrist's advertisements shall comply with applicable law. The foregoing requirements apply to all the psychiatrist's advertisements and statements, whether made directly by the psychiatrist or by any person and/or entity publishing or making them on the psychiatrist's behalf.
- l. A psychiatrist is expected to work cooperatively and professionally with other healthcare professionals involved in a patient's medical care, which interactions shall be guided by the patient's Health.
- m. A psychiatrist shall not defame or make unfounded allegations against another healthcare professional. The actions of a psychiatrist legitimately concerned about another healthcare professional's competence shall be guided by: (i) the need to protect the Health of patients and the public; (ii) applicable law; (iii) the bylaws, policies, and procedures based on which the healthcare professional provides medical care; and (iv) the ethical obligations of the psychiatrist.
- n. The psychiatrist shall encourage, cooperate with and assist scholarly endeavors by others within the field through discussion, debate and criticism as is appropriate.

IV. Ethical Rules Applicable to the Rehabilitation Team

- a. Rehabilitation Medicine is considered a team-oriented practice and, in connection therewith, a physiatrist shall work with and respect other team members.
- b. A physiatrist will encourage other team members to work fully within the scope of their license or expertise for the betterment of their patients.
- c. A physiatrist will respect and honor the rights and privileges of all team members.

V. Code Violations

Violation of this Code of Conduct shall be addressed in accordance with, and governed by, AAPM&R's Code of Conduct Disciplinary Procedures.

End of Code

Approved by the Board of Governors July 28, 2020.