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Purpose and Scope

Membership of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) provides assurance to the health consumer, related Health Care Professionals, Health Insurers and Health Care facilities that ACPS members meet the highest standards in Podiatric Surgery and the delivery of Podiatric Surgical services and treatment.

The aim of this Code is to protect the above and other interested parties by making these standards transparent.

The ACPS promotes and endorses the provision of ethical and appropriate information to patients and relevant parties.

The ACPS endorses that following assessment and diagnosis, patients are provided with comprehensive advice on the treatment plan including non-surgical therapies along with risks versus benefits thus allowing them to make fully informed decisions before consenting to undergo a surgical procedure.

Whilst all Podiatric Surgical practitioners must adhere to relevant laws and guidelines, which vary from state to state, the Code highlights those responsibilities and sets the high standards for Members of the ACPS.

To assist in compliance, the ACPS encourages Members adopt such overall responsibilities to consumers, health professionals, related health care parties and colleagues.

Background

"ACPS" means Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons

"FACPS" means a Fellow of the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons.

Body of Policy

Code Administration Committee

This code may form an attachment to the Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons - Accreditation of Podiatric Surgeons document and therefore any conduct by members falling within the scope of this code may be reviewed and administered by the College council.



The Code

1. General Considerations

Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons Members have a duty to the public and to each other. That duty is not a duty to legal minima, but one that seeks to constantly improve standards and consumer welfare.

Members must:

- 1.1 practice with integrity and honour, in the best interests of their patients, with the patient's safety and quality of care being paramount;
- 1.2 conduct their professional affairs in accordance with all applicable laws, relevant professional guidelines and ethics, and in a manner that upholds the good reputation of the specialty of Podiatric Surgery;
- 1.3 strive for the advancement of the specialty of Podiatric Surgery as Indicated in The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons - Accreditation of Podiatric Surgeons document.
- 1.4 be familiar with the College Constitution, Policy Documents, Resources, Professional Standards, Codes and/or guidelines. The list of such documents, being as published by the ACPS.

In addition, ACPS members are to comply with the following guidelines:

2. Advertising and promotion

Members of the ACPS must not advertise, by any method or in any manner which:

- 2.1 is false, misleading, deceptive;
- 2.2 creates an unjustified expectation of the outcome of treatment;
- 2.3 promotes the unnecessary or inappropriate use of the services of a podiatric surgeon;
- 2.4 compares their practices with that of another podiatric surgeon;
- 2.5 mentions specialisation of practice except those approved by the ACPS and/or registration bodies. (This does not preclude advertising the different services available at a practice); and



2.6 the College logo or relevant Certification logo may only be used by accredited Fellows or Members of the ACPS. Additionally, the Certification logo can only be used if the Fellow or Member is currently compliant with the College accreditation.

3. Informed Consent

Members and Fellows are to be familiar with the ACPS Professional Standard on informed consent.

4. Post-Operative Care

4.1 Each Member must:

- provide or arrange for full and adequate post-operative care for their patients, including provision for emergency contacts or advice to proceed to after-hours or remote care facilities. The post-operative surveillance and reviews should be appropriate for the magnitude of the surgery performed and allow for early detection of and intervention in the event of possible complication or adverse event; and
- provide adequate and appropriate on-going care, either by his or her own assessment and treatment, or by appropriate referral.

5. Complaints Processes

The dealing with complaints related to the codes of practice and subsequent disciplinary process are as per ACPS professional documents and follow principles of natural justice.

6. Compliance Audits

6.1 The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons - Accreditation of Podiatric Surgeons document forms the basis for compliance audits.

Relevant Documents

Nil.

The Australasian College of Podiatric Surgeons (ACPS) is committed to quality service to all clients and endeavours to ensure accuracy, currency and reliability of the information published in the above policy. However, the ACPS accepts no liability for any loss or damage which may be suffered as a direct or indirect result of applying this policy.