

GPA Code of Ethics

Sets forth the fundamental ethical principles that PTs and those preparing to enter the profession should recognize in order to fulfil their obligation to clients, the profession and society.

These guidelines were developed by the GPA and are required to be observed by every GPA member.

Members must also comply with relevant Ghanaian legislations including the code of ethics of Ghana Health Service and the Patients charter of the MOH.

The guidelines are not exhaustive and are subject to regular review and changes as the dynamics of the profession change and as new patterns of physiotherapy treatment and management are developed and accepted by the profession.

The GPA guideline spells out rules for PTs to be professional in their dealings as much as possible. They should also maintain a high sense of professionalism.

Commitment to the client/patient

The PT shall inform a client about a proposed therapy and course of therapy and as concisely and clearly as possible before application.

A PT shall inform the client of any possible risks as well as benefits of any procedure together with any alternative approach that could be offered. A PT shall procure the consent of the client as to the proposed therapy or course of therapy and such consent shall be implied or may be expressed by word of mouth or writing.

A PT shall not carry out any treatment if a client withholds his/her consent. To continue treatment against the clients' expressed wish will be a gross violation of the code of ethics.

In the case of a client who is a child or an adult whose mental state is such that he/she is not able to appreciate the information given by the PT, consent should be obtained from the care giver. A PT shall desist from making remarks or gestures that may be interpreted as sexually demanding and from engaging in any sexual relationship or activity with the client. The client should be self-referred, referred from another PT or health professional.

Confidentiality

A PT is obliged to maintain the privacy of clients information obtained (verbally, written or electronically acquired) and must not disclose such information to anyone without the written or verbal consent of the client or required by law.

Commitment to colleagues and other health professionals

A PT shall co-operate and communicate with other health professionals in the interest and with the consent of their client. A PT shall inform a referrer when a treatment is not necessary or beneficial or may be harmful to the client.

The PT shall co-operate with other PTs for the best interest of the client. The PT shall not criticize publicly any colleague to any client or any member of the health care system.

The PT must report to the appropriate authority about any circumstances which may put the client or others caring for the client at risk.

Commitment to the profession

The PT is required to maintain the dignity and honour of the profession by participating in programs aimed at improving the standard and values of the profession.

The PT shall ensure that the type and duration of treatment reflects current scientific evidence and discontinue treatments that are no longer necessary or effective. The PT shall charge fees that are reasonable for the service delivered.

A PT shall refrain from counselling or helping a non-Physiotherapist to practice physiotherapy. The PT shall engage in life-long learning to continually improve his/her practice. The PT shall ensure that physiotherapy students attain a high standard of client care by participating, whenever and wherever possible in educational and mentoring opportunities eg. Student placements and supervised clinical practice arrangements.

Advertisement

PTs shall not advertise their facility/practice on large bill boards. Physiotherapy facilities may however have fixed small billboards or plates in front of their clinics and such boards shall give short, concise, accurate and honest details about their practice.

Sale of services and goods

The PT shall not sell, supply, endorse or promote the sale of any service or goods in a way which exploits the professional relationship with his/her client.

The PT may only sell goods or services in clinical practice after he/she has satisfied him/herself that the goods and services are appropriate to the clients' condition. PTs are expected to exhibit high morals and personal integrity in both their personal and professional activities.