



# NGAOM

National Guild of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine

OPEIU Guild Local 62, AFL-CIO



## Code of Ethics

### Preamble

Acknowledging that the mission National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine is to exemplify and develop the finest standards of Oriental medical care.

Print full name	
Title:	License Number:

I gladly accept the privilege of membership. Furthermore I sanction the premise that being a practitioner of Oriental Medicine is a privilege and as such deserves my respect at all times in word, thought and deed. I give my solemn pledge, as a condition of membership, to live and practice with faithful devotion with the principles and regulations set forth by the Guild. I pledge myself to pursue the practice of Oriental Medicine with honesty and integrity and place the welfare and rights of my patients above all other interests. I pledge to deal with each patient as an individual affording him the attention, dignity and care that I would wish for myself. I will serve to relieve suffering and restore to health sick, infirm and injured patients using my skills to the very best of my abilities. When caring for terminal patients I will give palliative care with full respect for end of life issues of the patient and his family. I will as, a matter of principle, accept charity cases when I am able and consider it part of my duty as a practitioner of this art. I pledge myself to cooperate in advancing and extending the art and science of Oriental Medicine by my active membership in the National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

### Article I

I will maintain my qualifications and improve my skills by constant study of Oriental medicine using the scientific basis of evidence and proof, giving support the advancement of evidentiary basis of Oriental Medicine. I will respect my colleagues, seek their advice when in unsure about my own abilities, and assist my colleagues whenever requested. I will recognize that "competent practice" requires having sufficient experience and proper knowledge to make appropriate and acceptable decisions concerning the management of the patient's illnesses and conditions, as well as the ability and skill to administer therapeutic technique and prescribe regimen.

### Article II

I will protect the public, the profession and the medicine from practitioners lacking in moral character or professional competence, and will reveal to the proper authorities in a timely manner any illegal, unethical, fraudulent or deceptive conduct of fellow members of the profession. I will encourage impaired practitioners to obtain appropriate help and to cease those aspects of practice affected by their impairment. I will report to proper authorities suspected abuse or neglect of patients, sexual harassment and exploitation, and/or sexual misconduct in patient-practitioner relationships.



### **Article III**

I will uphold patient- practitioner confidences within the limits of the law.

### **Article IV**

Care of my patients will be my personal responsibility unless I specifically authorize a competent substitute. Any delegation of my services will be to appropriately trained practitioners. I will accept payment only for medical services actually performed or supervised by me, my compensation will be reasonable and in accordance with the services rendered, regardless of the source of payment. When providing charity or hardship care I will accept as payment only what the patient can reasonably afford.

### **Article V**

In promoting myself or my practice I will be honest and straightforward. I will endeavor not to be false, misleading or fraudulent. My communications with the public will be accurate. I will factually represent my training, my credentials, my experience, and my ability. When asked or when presenting data that may involve a real or perceived conflict of interest, I will disclose any personal commercial interests, including all gifts of more than token value from any business interests including securities investment. If there may be any actual or perceived effect on patient care, research, medical decisions, etc. I understand that non disclosure will invite disciplinary action. I will be truthful, honest, and fair in dealing with patients and colleagues. If asked to give expert witness testimony in the courtroom or any other venue, my testimony will be based on recent and tangible experience in the subjects upon which it is given. I will thoroughly review the medical facts and testify to the content fairly, honestly, and impartially, to the best of my knowledge, ability, and experience, I will refrain from criticizing Oriental medical practice that is clearly within accepted standards. Furthermore I will not excuse interventions and regimen that are clearly outside of such standards.

### **Article VI**

My research and academic pursuits will be conducted in an honest, fair, truthful, and comprehensive fashion, with cognition of my responsibilities to myself, the profession, my institution, the greater society, and the future generations who will benefit from this medicine. Timely and appropriate reporting of results is a responsibility I accept in doing research of any kind. In authorship I will confirm that I and my associates in the research have adhered to the guidelines for responsible ethical research. I will assure that the use of clinical trials or investigative procedures follow the accepted guidelines and standards as drawn up by Institutional Review Boards at the National Institutes of Health. Any support by business interests for my research will be prominently disclosed by all involved in writing when reporting such research in any forum public or private.

### **Article VII**

I will give my full commitment to a patient once I accept their case. If I withdraw from providing care, I will obtain an adequate substitute. I will rebuke unnecessary utilization as a serious ethical violation, and will not engage in fee splitting or itinerant practice-practice anywhere without appropriate evaluation or adequate and skilled follow up care.



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## Article VIII

I will always make provisions for informed consent prior to providing appropriate medical care. I will affirm that my patients will be provided with all of the information necessary to give consent and to make his own choice of treatment, even if contrary to my own advice and opinions. I will make known to my patients the risks and benefits, costs, reasonable expectations and possible complications, available alternative treatments, as well as the identification of other practitioners who will be providing direct care for them, I will respect my patient's rights and be limited by the scope of my patient's consent unless required by law to do otherwise.

## Article IX

I will obey the law. I will seek to change laws that are contrary to the best interests of the patient. I will accept the profession's self-imposed discipline.

## Article X

I will support the Guild to amend and improve this Code of Ethics as necessary, thereby improving the quality of care and patient outcomes. I recognize that Code is a living document and that from time to time it will be necessary to amend or change some portions of this Code. Emerging issues will inevitably require the Guild to pass judgment based upon by our Code of Ethics. As Guild members we will all endeavor to use this Code of Ethics to foresee the negative and positive effective of our actions as we meet the challenge of future issues for our profession.

**With my solemn pledge I agree to uphold the Code of Ethics in their entirety**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_