

THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF

registered beauty therapists

INC.



# Code of Ethics

for

**Members of The New Zealand Association of  
Registered Beauty Therapists Inc.**

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# **THE NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED BEAUTY THERAPISTS INC.**

## **CODE OF ETHICS AND SUBSIDIARY RULES**

### **Intention**

1. The essence of a profession is that it is vitally interested in the well-being of the members of the public for whom it provides services and that it imposes on its members various obligations to ensure that the public are protected from improper practices.
2. All professions have a Code of Ethics; a basic instrument of public protection which covers rules of conduct and where these are disregarded it can mean the member's suspension or expulsion from the Association.
3. All new members are required to sign an agreement to the effect that they will abide by the Code of Ethics and thereby uphold the high professional standards.
4. The Code shall be used where necessary to draw the attention of the public to the existence of less than acceptable practices by unqualified and badly trained operators and the personal damage that could result from such practices.

### **Definitions**

5. When the words 'physician', 'surgeon', 'dermatologist', 'physiotherapist' and 'podiatrist' are employed, they are intended to mean those persons who are registered in those capacities by virtue of their qualifications and experience under the existing Acts of Parliament.
6. The word 'member' is to be taken as meaning all members of the Association. The word 'her' implies 'his' also. The Committee means the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Therapists Inc.

7. It is appreciated that many members of the Association have accepted medical qualifications. In such cases, the proscriptions noted in the By-Laws and the Subsidiary Ethical Rules will apply when such persons are performing treatments in pursuance of their medical calling. However, both Codes of Ethics should be adhered to.
8. The Code of Ethics as embodied in the By-Laws of the Association are reproduced in full below.

### **Scope of Beauty Therapy Practice**

9. This is defined as the application or prescription of treatments designed to vary the external physical appearance or produce a greater feeling of well-being in human beings by the use of cosmetics, Swedish massage, exercises and such variations or extensions of those methods by hand, mechanical or electrical means or otherwise, as may be appropriate to this art.
10. A member will confine her practice to the field set out in the definition given in Paragraph 9 above and
  - a) A member will not, even within the above field, operate or give manipulative treatment for any condition requiring the use of a general or local anaesthetic by injection.
  - b) A member will not treat any person who to her knowledge is at the time under the care of a medical practitioner for a condition likely to be affected by her treatment without the knowledge and consent of that practitioner.
  - c) Members are prohibited from prescribing treatments for skin disorders or figure faults by post, without including warning statements to the effect that such treatments should not be performed without the prior approval of the client's physician. In addition, members may not attempt diagnosis without personally examining the client.
  - d) Members are prohibited from using ultra-sonic devices unless they hold separate medical qualifications entitling them to perform such treatments. This does not prohibit the use of sound-wave vibrators emitting frequencies in the audible spectrum.

## **Obligations of Members**

11. A member shall maintain a high standard of professional service including being willing to address any service complaints, without charge, that have occurred due to poor service on the part of herself, or any of her employees, or for faulty products.
12. A member shall in all cases beyond the field of practice specified in this by-law, advise the client to consult a medical practitioner.
13. Membership incurs an obligation to uphold the dignity and honour of the profession, to enhance its standing and to extend its usefulness to the public. The conduct of members shall at all times be creditable to the profession.
14. A member shall always be ready and willing to assist fellow members.
15. A member shall refrain from either directly or indirectly offering employment or hiring an employee from another clinic except through proper advertising vacancies in the media.  
N.B. This ethical rule shall not be construed as inhibiting an employee acting on their own initiative in pursuing employment opportunities in the beauty therapy industry.
16. No member shall, for any reason, knowingly, entice any other member's clients for her beneficial gain.
17. A member temporarily taking charge of a client of another member shall make no effort to influence such client to leave her usual Beauty Therapist and shall uphold as far as is consistently possible and in no way disparage the methods of such member. In consultation, due regard shall be paid to the Therapist in charge of the case.
18. A member who has been employed as an assistant by another member shall not at the termination of her employment, or on decease of her former employer where the practice of her former employer has been purchased by another member, circularise or otherwise attempt to induce clients to forsake the practice of such former employer.

19. The fact of clients changing to another Therapist or another setting up in practice near at hand should not be allowed to influence the friendly relationships which should exist among all members.
20. All duly constituted medical bodies shall be respected, and endeavours made to merit the esteem of medical practitioners with whom members may come into contact.
21. An Associate, Student or Affiliate member may not use the Society's logo or "Member of the New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Therapists Inc." or "MNZARBTh". An Honorary Life member may use the Society's logo and "Member of the New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Therapists Inc" or "MNZARBTh" if that member held those entitlements prior to appointment as an Honorary Life member. Advertising or publicity by members of a category not sanctioned by the Committee or an entry in any directory not approved by the Committee shall be considered to be a breach of this Code of Ethics.
22. A member may not sell goods to clients in a professional capacity or accept commission on the sale of goods, but this shall not be deemed to include the supply of cosmetics or beauty appliances in connection with the treatments given or such other items as may be approved by the Committee from time to time.
23. In cases where a member acts jointly with, or practices in partnership with one or more persons (whether they are all members of the Association or not) they shall not use the designatory letters of the Association after the joint names or after the title of the firm, or in any manner directly or indirectly calculated to lead to the assumption that all such persons are individually members of the Association.

## **SUBSIDIARY ETHICAL RULES**

24. These subsidiary Ethical Rules consist of proscriptions issued by the Committee to the by-laws and are currently in force.
25. Acupuncture  
This is a treatment originating in the Far East and specifies needles being inserted into the skin as a means of curing physical ailments. Members are forbidden to perform such treatments unless qualified in this procedure.
26. Physiotherapy  
Physiotherapy in the sense of physical manipulation, or the application of substances, or mechanical or electrical treatments for the relief of pain, or the correction of bone deformities, is forbidden. Clients requiring such treatments should be advised to consult their physician. This rule does not prohibit members providing massage for minor backache or tired feet, provided that these are not chronic complaints and there is no reason to believe that there is any other ailment involved. If there is any doubt, the client must be referred to their physician.
27. Podiatry  
Podiatry covers the treatment of foot disorders, and specifically involves the use of cutting instruments, the removal of growths on the foot and the correction of foot deformities. This is outside the scope of Beauty Therapy and persons requiring such treatments should be referred to their physician or podiatrist. Members may only perform pedicare in the sense of manicure of the toe-nails with simple foot massage.
28. Cutting of the Skin  
No treatment may be provided by a member that involves cutting/ piercing of the skin deeper than the dermal/epidermal junction.
29. Aromatherapy  
This treatment must not be performed by members unless they have undertaken formal training through a recognized college or school.

30. Anaesthetics

The By-Laws specifically prohibit the use of anaesthetics unless administered by a medical practitioner, dental surgeon or a full member qualified in the field of anaesthesia.

31. Skin Peeling

Skin peeling, by which is meant the removal of the whole or a large part of the epidermis with a treatment using chemical, electrical, or mechanical means is acceptable provided this does not extend below the dermal/epidermal junction.

32. Ultra-Violet Radiation

May not be used by members unless such treatments are provided solely for sun-tan purposes. **Members should be aware of the detrimental effects that can be caused by long term use of sunbeds.**

33. IPL/Laser

**The New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Therapists Inc. does not recommend the use of unregulated IPL machines which have not been certified. We recommend that members only purchase machines from reputable suppliers who provide post graduate training, hold a current Safety Certificate and have comprehensive insurance coverage. Clients must give an 'informed consent' which must be signed prior to the commencement of any treatment.**

34. Hair Removal Using Electrical Currents

May only be carried out by persons holding a qualification recognised by the Association.

35. Moles & Warts

No member may treat a client to remove moles or warts or undertake treatments by diathermy or other electrical or mechanical means unless

- a) The member is on a separate register held by the Association of persons qualified to perform such treatments.
- b) The client produces a signed certificate from her/his physician stating that she has no objection to the treatment being performed.

36. Sale of Instruments

Under the By-Laws members are restricted in regard to the equipment that may be sold to clients. Under this heading members may not sell ultra-violet lamps or faradic body treatment units to clients without a certificate permitting such sale signed by the client's physician. This rule is designed to prevent clients causing themselves unnecessary damage through using instruments without adequate supervision.

37. Code Enforcement

In enforcing the Code of Ethics and Subsidiary Ethical Rules and in trying to prevent improper practices being performed by persons other than our members, we depend upon the co-operation of all members. If members learn of breaches of the Code or know of establishments permitting activities lowering the status of Health and Beauty Therapists and bringing figure treatment work into disrepute, then they should report such matters to the Committee. Any unethical behaviour is reviewed by the Committee and any necessary steps are taken. Members may be assured that any statements made to the President or the Secretary of the Association in this connection will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would ask for your active co-operation in this matter so as to ensure that the highest status of our profession is not discredited by the activities of a few unscrupulous persons.



