

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS FOR MACROBIOTIC PRACTITIONER MEMBERS

The aim of this code for Practitioner Members is to ensure that high standards of professional conduct are followed, ensuring high standards of practice, and for the protection and safety of clients. Practitioner Members must accept that by taking out their membership, they are agreeing to abide by the following Code of Conduct and Ethics and Guidelines for Practise.

GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS FOR ALL HEALING ARTS

1. Always act in such a manner as to promote and safeguard the interests and well being of clients, and in a compassionate and supportive manner.
2. Ensure that no action or omission on your part, or within your sphere of responsibility is detrimental to the interests, condition or safety of clients.
3. Acknowledge any limitations in your knowledge and competence and decline to work with or treat anyone unless able to do so in a safe and competent manner.
4. Maintain and improve your professional competence.
5. Conduct yourself in an honourable and respectful manner in your relations with other practitioners, and to avoid speaking detrimentally about them.
6. Work in a co-operative manner with colleagues and where appropriate other healthcare professionals, and recognise and respect their particular contribution to the client's well being.
7. Where it is seen that a client could benefit from seeing another practitioner, to recommend your client to seek his or her help.
8. Recognise and respect the uniqueness and dignity of each client irrespective of their ethnic origin, class, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or personal attributes.
9. Avoid any abuse of your privileged relationship with clients. Starting a sexual relationship or an inappropriate emotional relationship with a current or previous client is explicitly prohibited during a period of consultation and for a reasonable period of time following their final appointments and until issues of power have been addressed in supervision. Practitioners are responsible for ensuring that their sexual and emotional needs are met outside the client-practitioner relationship.
10. Avoid entering into any business, financial, commercial or other relationship with a client, to your advantage, that could exploit your privileged relationship with them.

11. Protect all confidential information concerning clients obtained in the course of professional practice and make disclosures only with written consent, where required by order of a court or where disclosure is in the wider public interest.
12. To clearly communicate in advance to clients all fees, working times, length of work, any on-going help by telephone, email or in person, and other aspects of seeing clients.
13. Not to make unsubstantiated claims as to curability, nor to cause distress by appearing to make medical diagnoses.
14. To ensure that consultations, teaching and cooking classes are carried out in an environment that is safe, clean and appropriate.

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE - GENERAL

1. Support in Professional Practice. It is advised that practitioners regularly have an opportunity to reflect on their work and receive feedback. This may be from a regular meeting with a peer or group of peers, or from a more experienced practitioner. This process is termed supervision.
2. Give advice or cook for only with the client's informed consent, ensuring the client is aware of and understands the nature of the help to be given.
3. Advertising
 - i. Advertising by Members of the Macrobiotic Association shall be guided by the Codes of Conduct and Ethics.
 - ii. Members on the Register of Professional Practitioners of the Macrobiotic Association of GB may use the following initials: Macrobiotic Cook & Health Advisor M.C.H.A., Macrobiotic Specialist Cook & Healing Guide M.S.C.H.G., Macrobiotic Counsellor M.C., Macrobiotic Caterer M.Cat.
 - iii. Student members shall not use their membership of the association in any advertising.
 - iv. Advertising shall not make claims of superiority or curability.
 - v. Advertising shall not make detrimental comparisons between other members of the profession or other similar professions.
 - vi. Advertising shall comply with the British Council of Advertising Practice.

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE – MACROBIOTIC COOK & HEALTH ADVISORS

1. While general advice on eating a healthy diet and living healthily can be given, no individually tailored recommendations should be given.
2. To hold a current basic health and hygiene certificate, and to follow its guidelines.
3. Maintain approved and appropriate Public and Products Liability insurance cover.

4. To respect the client's kitchen and property, and to leave the kitchen clean and tidy.
5. To maintain professional boundaries with clients, keeping focused on the cooking.
6. When giving advice on setting up a kitchen in clients' homes, to give appropriate and respectful advice avoiding offence.
7. While general advice on cooking and eating can be given, no individually tailored recommendations should be given.

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE – MACROBIOTIC SPECIALIST COOK & HEALING GUIDES

1. To hold a current basic health and hygiene certificate, and to follow its guidelines.
2. Maintain approved and appropriate Public and Products Liability insurance cover.
3. To respect the client's kitchen and property, and to leave the kitchen clean and tidy.
4. To maintain professional boundaries with clients, keeping focused on the cooking.
5. Communication should be maintained with the client's Macrobiotic Counsellor, with the client's permission, on any matter of importance to the client's wellbeing.

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICE – MACROBIOTIC COUNSELLORS

1. Maintain approved and appropriate professional indemnity insurance cover.
2. Macrobiotic Counsellors are advised to incorporate a disclaimer in the information they give to clients, e.g. *"This is not a medical treatment or advice, but educative in nature. It is not a replacement for medical advice. If you require medical advice please seek the help of a qualified medical practitioner."*
3. To keep adequate and appropriate records of all client consultations.
4. To decline giving any advice on the taking or ceasing to take of any prescribed medications.
5. Children
 - i The written consent of the parent or legal guardian should be obtained before giving advice to anyone under the age of sixteen.
 - ii It is a criminal offence if a parent or guardian does not provide adequate medical aid for a child under the age of sixteen. A practitioner who gives advice to a child whose parents are not providing adequate medical aid may be considered to aid and abet the offence.
 - iii Where it is known that the parents are not receiving medical attention for the child, Practitioner Members are most strongly advised to secure the signature of the

parent or guardian to the following statement:

I have been advised by (name of Member) that according to law I should consult a doctor concerning the health of my child, (name of child).

Signed (parent or guardian)

Date

Witness (signature of person witnessing)

This statement shall be kept with the client's records.

6. Mental Incapacity. If a person is deemed to be incapable or unable to give or refuse consent for any treatment due to mental incapacity, you are advised to act only in the client's best interests and with the agreement of their legal guardian.
7. Venereal Disease. Under the Venereal Diseases Act 1917 it is illegal to treat knowingly for reward, whether direct or indirect (e.g. for a 'contribution') syphilis, gonorrhoea or soft chancre. Therefore you may not advise clients with these diseases unless the treatment is entirely free.
8. If a client is using a Macrobiotic Specialist Cook & Healing Guide, communication should be maintained with the client's Specialist Cook, with the client's permission, on any matter of importance to the client's wellbeing.