

## **CODE OF PRACTICE - ACUPUNCTURE**

### **PRODUCED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE**

**April 2006**

- 1) To maintain high standard of care, competence and conduct.
- 2) Patients are to be given all the information about their treatment, listen to them carefully and respect their confidentiality.
- 3) To assess any condition thoroughly, with appropriate examination and investigation.
- 4) A treatment plan is to be formulated in partnership with patient after necessary assessment.
- 5) Recognise the limits of your professional competence and work within them.
- 6) Consult other professionals and refer for investigation and treatment elsewhere when necessary and encourage patients to seek other forms of medical treatment if you feel that acupuncture is no longer the most appropriate means of treating their problems.
- 7) You must keep accurate, comprehensive, easily understood and dated case notes recordings:
  - i) Patients personal details
  - ii) Presenting complaint and symptoms reported by the patient
  - iii) Relevant medical and family history
  - iv) Clinical findings
  - v) Treatment given and details of progress of the case including reviews of treatment planning
  - vi) Any decisions you make in conjunction with the patient
  - vii) You must not use knowledge gained from patients or from their records for personal and/ or professional gain.
- 8) It is important that patients are treated in an environment that is safe for patients, ensuring that actual and/ or potential risks are eliminated.
- 9) It is important that needles used are disposed of in an appropriate manner (sharpes boxes). And these in turn are disposed of according to the regulations issued by the Department of Health.

- 10) You must refresh your knowledge and techniques, for example, attending appropriate seminars and post graduate training courses, or by undertaking recognised Continuing Professional Development training.

It is highly recommended that every Acupuncturist carries out Continuing Professional Development.