



香港運動治療師總會
SPORTS THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

Code of Practice For Category A Members

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Introduction

The Code of Practice(CoP) published by the Sports Therapists Association of Hong Kong (STAoHK) aims to establish the professional standards of Sports Therapists practising in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region(HKSAR).

The mission of the STAoHK is to establish, maintain and raise the bar for the Sports Therapy profession. The primary duty of Sports Therapists is to competently assist the patients to optimum health and performance within the circumstances of the patient's condition and within their boundaries of training and Scope of Practice (please read the "Scope of Practice " published by STAoHK for details).

Sports Therapists that have registered as a member (registrant) of the STAoHK shall adhere to the CoP.

Section One - Ethics

Sports Therapists are required to:

- 1.1. Represent their qualifications honestly, including their educational achievements and professional affiliations and will provide only those services they are qualified to perform.
- 1.2. Be aware of cautions and contraindications for sports therapy and refrain from treatment where appropriate.
- 1.3. Acknowledge the limitations of sports therapy and refer patients to the appropriate professionals when necessary.
- 1.4. Provide treatment only where there is reasonable expectation that it will be advantageous to the patients.
- 1.5. Consistently maintain and improve their professional knowledge, developing a portfolio of education which meets the requirements of their professional organizations.
- 1.6. Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty, integrity, and respect the views and beliefs of their patients in regard to gender, ethnic origins, cultural background, sexuality, lifestyle, age and social status.
- 1.7. Refrain from unjust discrimination against clients, patients and/or other medical and healthcare professionals. They must seek to maintain good relationships and co-operate with other medical and healthcare professionals.
- 1.8. Ensure that patients have an understanding about what is involved in their treatment and that voluntary informed consent is obtained either verbally or in a written form prior to treatment commencing.
- 1.9. Respect the client-sports therapist relationship, the confidentiality of the client and endeavour to foster and maintain trust at all times.
- 1.10. Respect the patient's right to refuse or terminate treatment at any time, regardless of prior consent given.
- 1.11. Sports Therapists may exercise the right to refuse treatment to any person, or part of the body, for just and reasonable cause.
- 1.12. Respect the patient's right to total confidentiality.

Section Two - Conduct

- 2.1. Sports Therapists should be sensitive to a patient's modesty at all times and provide appropriate draping and treatment in a way that ensures their comfort and privacy. Also to be sensitive to any special needs e.g. language difficulties, disability or if they wish a companion to be present.
- 2.2. Physical examinations or treatments of children under the age of 16 must be in the presence of a parent or guardian unless written consent has been given.
- 2.3. Where a client is already receiving medical treatment for their presenting condition, treatment should not be commenced without prior consent from the respective practitioner.
- 2.4. Provide information (if requested) to other medical and healthcare professionals with clients written consent only.
- 2.5. Report all notifiable disease states according to applicable laws in HKSAR.
- 2.6. Ensure by means of continuous update of information and training, a level of competence consistent with the highest standards of the profession.
- 2.7. Maintain a portfolio of continuing professional development.
- 2.8. Deal with complaints and criticisms efficiently using appropriate procedures.
- 2.9. Abstain from any claim or statement misrepresenting the therapeutic benefits of sports therapy.
- 2.10. Sports Therapists should at all times maintain the correct appearance, behaviour and conduct expected of the professional person; any abuse of alcohol, drugs, or good order is deemed to be a serious offence against this code. Sports Therapists should not practise if illness, physical or mental, affects their practice.
- 2.11. Sports Therapists should not:
 - i) Undertake to treat patients who are mentally unstable addicted to drugs or alcohol, severely depressed, suicidal, or hallucinating unless they have the necessary competence or have written medical consent.
 - ii) Knowingly apply sports therapy to a person who is already receiving similar medical treatment for the same condition without the respective practitioner's consent.

iii) Carry out any sports therapy on a patient who has already received similar treatment for the same condition from another practitioner unless the client has, of his/her own volition, decided to abandon the original practitioner's treatment.

iv) Treat animals without express permission from a veterinary surgeon.

Section Three - Standard of Practice

Records

- 3.1. Sports Therapists should maintain up-to-date records of all clients in regard to medical history, presenting complaints, assessment and procedures performed.
- 3.2. The record keeping process should be as transparent as possible, and clients should be made aware that records are being kept.
- 3.3. All records should proceed under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486).
- 3.4. Records must be kept in a secure place, adequately safeguarded and not accessible to third parties. Computerised records must be kept secure from unauthorised access. Sports Therapists are advised to seek advice relating to the requirement to register under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) where client records are computerised.
- 3.5. Sports Therapists should safeguard the confidentiality of all patients' information. Disclosure to third parties, including other medical and healthcare professionals should be only with the client's written permission. (Where information is disclosed to other parties, advice should be sought relating to the requirement to register under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486).
- 3.6. Patient records need to be kept for seven years, in the case of children for 5 years after their 21st birthday, for terminally or seriously ill patients records should be retained indefinitely.

Personal

- 3.7. Sports Therapists must have a current first aid certificate.
- 3.8. Sports Therapists must hold adequate medical malpractice and public liability insurance cover.

Premises

- 3.9. Treatment areas must be hygienic, safe and equipped to clinical standards. Any couch used must have an adequate working weight for the client and techniques used.
- 3.10. Treatment rooms and public areas all must comply with current health and safety regulations. Staff facilities and public areas (waiting rooms, hallways, stairs, toilet facilities etc.) must also comply with current health and safety regulations.

Advertising

- 3.11. Any advertising must be legal, decent, honest, truthful.
- 3.12. Advertisements must not abuse the trust of existing or potential patients/clients or exploit their lack of knowledge or make claims of cure.
- 3.13. They must be of good character and not bring the profession into disrepute.

Logo, Stationary and Other Products

- 3.14. Professional letterheads should be of good quality and print.
- 3.15. Sports Therapists can use the STAoHK logo on business stationery (such as name card) and promotional materials (such as poster/infographics) ONLY. The right of use is for the duration of the membership and must not be used when membership has ceased.

Publications and Media

- 3.16. Nothing may be published in the name of the STAoHK without prior agreement. However, members can mention the Association during the media interview.
- 3.17. Sports Therapists must not engage in any behaviour that brings the reputation of the STAoHK into question. This applies to any public postings on social media sites or public forums.
- 3.18. Sports Therapists must be courteous to all and operate in a manner that does not cause any offence to any other STAoHK members, members of the public, STAoHK staff and officers or any other professional person. This applies to behaviour on social media, in public, via email or any other communications which may be seen by others.
- 3.19 Sports Therapists can represent themselves in the name of STAoHK to media interviews by presenting "Registered Sports Therapist, Sports Therapists Association of Hong Kong/(HK) ".

Position Statements and Guidelines Published by STAoHK

- 3.19 Sports Therapists must adhere to the position statements and guidelines published by the STAoHK.