



INTERNATIONAL AROMATHERAPY & AROMATIC MEDICINE ASSOCIATION

Code of Practice

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this Code of Practice is to set out the basic standards which the International Aromatherapy & Aromatic Medicine Association Incorporated expects its Members to maintain. This Code of Practice lays down minimum standards necessary for Members of the Association. Clients who attend a registered Aromatherapist expect a professional approach by the practitioner and this professionalism should be reflected in the equipment, furniture and premises.

INSURANCE

Adequate public liability and professional insurance must be held by all practicing members in Australia (and overseas members if it is applicable in the country of their practice).

PREMISES

- Consultation and treatment rooms must be clean, adequately lit properly ventilated and in a good state of general repair.
- A wash basin with hot and cold water supply and properly connected to public drainage should be located in the work area. Soap, preferably containing antiseptic and some means of hand-drying should be available.
- If the consultation and treatment rooms are not directly accessible from the street, all entrance ways and stair ways should be adequately lit and kept clean.
- An appropriate sign indicating that an Aromatherapist is in practice may be placed at the main entrance.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

- The Aromatherapist must ensure that their health and personal hygiene are such as to cause no danger to a client.
- The practitioner must not eat, drink or smoke while at practice.
- The Aromatherapist must be aware of the elements of public hygiene and local safety-by-laws and specifications in connection with Aromatherapy.

FURNITURE

- Massage couches and chairs etc must be sturdy and safe. They should be kept clean and disinfected.
- Table tops and other work surfaces must have an impervious surface which can be cleaned and disinfected at each session.



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CLIENT REGISTER

- A card index or other suitable means should be set up to register clients' names, addresses and other relevant information including dates of attendance. This register must include treatment plans and treatment outcomes.
- All client files shall be kept for a period no shorter than 5 years in accordance with Australian Commonwealth legislation or as applicable in the country of practice.
- If good records are maintained, continuity of client care is possible and case history information can be made available to another Aromatherapist if the client moves away from a practice.
- Consultation records should include updated progress reports and records of any referrals and tests carried out by other practitioners and should be capable of being understood by any other Member, taking over or assisting in the care of that client. It is important that the client signs the initial consultation notes.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- It is the responsibility of the practicing Aromatherapist to observe any local by-laws with regard to the therapy undertaken. All necessary legal (pharmaceutical and cosmetic) requirements must be complied with in regard to all materials used and stored, purchased complete or assembled and labeled on practice premises.
- The Association expects Members not to presume a specialist knowledge outside their own training. Members must be wary of giving advice on skin and bodily ailments outside the limitations of their own specialised training and knowledge.

LIAISON WITH OTHER PROFESSIONS

Liaison with the client's doctor may increase better understanding between individual Aromatherapists and their local doctors. Gradually, if contact can become established with a number of consultants in various spheres, eg. dermatology, homoeopathy, dietics, reflexology etc., a clients' conditions may be greatly assisted, the standing of aromatherapy is enhanced and more satisfactory conclusions are attained. Many doctors are co-operative if asked if they would be agreeable to receiving referrals and every such liaison serves to strengthen the ideals which we seek to achieve. By lecturing to other professional bodies and by increasing contact, greater awareness of Aromatherapy aims and objectives can be communicated.

INTERNAL USE OF ESSENTIAL OILS

- The IAAMA acknowledges that essential oils are used in very low doses for applications such as cooking, flavouring, mouth washes and throat sprays.
- No Member of the IAAMA shall use or promote the use of 'therapeutic doses' of essential oils for internal ingestion unless the practicing aromatherapist has an advanced diploma in aromatic medicine, other ingestive modality with additional training in essential oils or other medical qualifications and holds an insurance policy which specifically covers the internal ingestion and internal application of essential oils.