

Code Of Ethics

A standard of professional conduct in all Orthoptists is important for both the patient and the high regard of the profession.

1. Orthoptists must hold qualifications recognised by the appropriate authority
2. Orthoptists should offer the best possible treatment to their patients
3. Orthoptists should not by act or omission do anything to endanger or adversely affect the health or safety of their patients.
4. Orthoptists should be mindful and avoid exceeding their competence and limit themselves to fields of practice in which they have been trained in and deemed competent.
5. Orthoptists should treat all people with professionalism, loyalty and respect.
6. Orthoptists are responsible for the public image of the profession and should refrain from any action which might discredit themselves or the profession.

Professional practice

- Orthoptists shall treat patients, their families and other supporting individuals with dignity and respect, providing care without regard to culture, religion, race, gender, age, sexual orientation or social standing.
- Orthoptists should have a professional responsibility to evaluate the effectiveness of their work and adjust their practice accordingly.
- Orthoptists should maintain and develop their knowledge with continued professional development throughout their careers and use this to enhance their practise.
- Orthoptists should liaise with others involved in the care of the patient to provide a holistic approach to patient care.
- Orthoptists should not allow their professional judgement to be influenced by the offer of gifts or money, or let their behaviour or treatment of a patient be affected by financial or professional gain.
- Orthoptists should seek to promote Orthoptics and present it in a positive manner.

Communication

- Orthoptists should be able to effectively communicate with patients, parents, and other professionals and so should have an adequate level of competence in the primary language in which they are practising professionally.
- Orthoptists must maintain strict patient and professional confidentiality protecting the patient's privacy. Information should only be stored for the benefit and care of the patient.

- Orthoptists must maintain full and accurate records and ensure these data are stored securely and safely.
- Orthoptists should only advertise their professional activities in a restrained manner. Advertisements should not be false or misleading and exaggerating claims of personal skills or outcomes of treatment should not be made.

Education and Research

- Orthoptists involved in the education of students should deliver the highest standard in both academic and clinical terms and ensure the students professional competencies are achieved.
- Orthoptists who undertake clinical training should provide adequate supervision and assume full responsibility of the patient.
- Orthoptists should endeavour to increase knowledge through research and share finding with colleagues. Research must conform to accepted scientific principles and care should be taken to ensure ethical standards are maintained.