

SAAHSP



SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HEALTH & SKINCARE PROFESSIONALS

(Formerly The South African Institute of Health and Beauty Therapy)

Formed at Johannesburg, Thursday 7 September 1972

(CIDESCO Section - South Africa as from 24 August 1976)

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics was approved and ratified by Board at the meeting held on 10 October 1982, amended by Board:

- at the meeting held on 3 October 1988
- at the meeting held on 12 March 1989
- at the meeting held on 16 August 1994
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UNDER NEW NAME SAAHSP

- at the meeting held on 22 February 1999
- at the meeting held on 20 February 2005
- at the meeting held on 07 February 2008
- at the meeting held on 04 September 2012
- at the meeting held on 27 January 2022

Professional body refers to SAAHSP

1. PURPOSE

A code of professional conduct is a necessary component to any industry to maintain standards against which the professionals within that industry subscribe. It brings about accountability, responsibility and trust to the clients that are served/ treated by the professionals.

2. DEFINITION

- 2.1 Advanced Aesthetic Therapist (AHS)
Qualified/Skilled therapist who is engaged in aesthetic treatments. They may not be qualified but it is the designated term used.
- 2.2 Somatologist (SOMHS)
Qualified/Skilled therapist that has completed a three-year formal qualification focusing on the scientific study of the human body, including anatomy and physiology, physics, chemistry, nutrition, and biotics. Treatments performed by a Somatologist includes beauty treatments, complete skin, and body treatments with a holistic approach towards clients with the inclusion of complementary therapies.
- 2.3 Beauty Therapist (BHS)
Qualified/Skilled therapist has completed a two-year formal qualification applying complete skincare and body treatments including massage to improve a person's appearance. Treatments performed by a Beauty therapist could also include different forms of massage techniques with a holistic approach.
- 2.4 Beauty Technologist (BTHS)
Qualified/Skilled therapist that has completed a one-year formal qualification applying basic skincare, hand and foot treatments, hair removal, make-up applications and basic back and neck massage with a back treatment.
- 2.5 Nail Technician (NTHS)
Qualified/Skilled therapist that has completed a one-year formal qualification applying artificial nails and provides nail and nail care therapy on the hands and feet for the purpose of improving the appearance.

3. PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBERS TO THEIR CLIENTS

- 3.1.1 Polite, honest, and objective professional behaviour
- 3.1.2 Ensure hygienic conditions – cleanliness of therapist and their working environment
- 3.1.3 Screen clients for allergies, sensitivities and diseases or disorders.
- 3.1.4 Ensure correct application and use of all technology, tools, and products
- 3.1.5 Modesty and privacy of client during treatments.
- 3.1.6 Protection of client against harmful use of technology and products (code of ethics)

4. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES UNDERPINNING THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND ETHICS

- 4.1 Integrity
- 4.2 Professional behaviour
- 4.3 Professional competence and due care
- 4.4 Confidentiality
- 4.5 Ethical Standards

5. CODE OF PRACTISE

- 5.1 A member will confine his/her practice to the field set out in the definition of health and skincare/nail technology contained in this Code of Ethics.
- 5.2 A member shall in all cases beyond the field of health and skincare therapy/nail technology specified in this Code of Ethics, advise the client to consult a medical practitioner. A member may not be discriminatory.
- 5.3 Membership incurs an obligation to uphold the dignity and honour of the profession, to exalt its standing and to extend its usefulness to the public. The conduct of members shall at all times be both becoming and credible to the profession. **Unprofessional conduct can lead to cancellation of designation membership.**
- 5.4 A member shall always be ready and willing to assist fellow practitioners.
- 5.5 Good records should be maintained so that continuity of client care is possible and case history information can be made available to another 'therapist'/'nail technician'. A system should be set up to register client's names, address and other relevant information including dates of attendance. These records should include updated

progress reports and records or any referrals by practitioners and should be capable of being understood by any other therapist/nail technician taking over or assisting in the care of the client. Record cards are the property of the practice and not the therapists/nail technician.

- 5.6 The member belonging to the professional body and have paid their annual membership will be entitled to display the association logo. Trademark rules apply.
- 5.7 All duly constituted medical bodies and members thereof shall be respected, and endeavours made to merit the esteem of medical practitioners with whom members may come into contact.
If clients are referred to members by a doctor, members to observe his/her instructions implicitly and liaise with the Doctor as required.
- 5.8 In cases where a member acts jointly with or practises in partnership with one or more persons (whether they are all members of the Association or not) they shall not use the designatory letters of the Association after their joint names or after the title of the firm or in any manner directly or indirectly calculated to lead to the assumption that all such persons are individually all members of the Association.
- 5.9 The therapist/nail technician must recognise that the primary obligation is towards the client and at all times must practise her skills to the best of her ability for the benefit of the client. The comfort and welfare of the client must always have priority over any other requirement.
- 5.10 In recognising the unique nature of the individual, a therapist shall have respect for all religious, spiritual, political, and social views irrespective of race, colour, creed, or sex.
- 5.11 Therapist/nail technicians should endeavour to continually update their knowledge and to learn about new developments and technology, by attending workshops and by whatever other means applicable. This will be achieved by CPD Activity (Continual Professional Development).
- 5.12 **Advertising and publicity** must be responsible and not misleading, and claims made must be substantiated. The Board has the right to investigate and take action regarding false claims and/or complaints and this could be considered as a breach of the Code of Ethics as well as in accordance with CPA (Consumer Protection Act)

6. CODE ENFORCEMENT

In enforcing the Code of Ethics and Subsidiary Ethical Rules and in trying to prevent improper practices being performed, irresponsible advertising and unethical behaviour, we depend upon the co-operation of all members. If members learn of breaches of the Code or know of establishments permitting activities lowering the status of health and skincare therapist/Nail Enhancements and Manicure/Pedicure treatment work and bringing figure treatment work into disrepute then they should report, in writing, such matters to the Board. These reports will be treated in the strictest confidence.

7. EXTENSION OF SCOPE OF PRACTISE

- 7.1 Acupuncture is a treatment originating in the Far East using specific needles being inserted into the skin as a means of curing physical ailments. This treatment is outside the scope of health and skincare therapy/nail technician and persons requiring such treatment should be referred to a qualified acupuncturist.
- 7.2 Podiatry/Chiropody covers the treatment of foot disorders and specifically involves the use of cutting instruments, the removal of growths on the foot and the correction of foot deformities. This is outside the scope of health and skincare therapy/nail technician and persons requiring such treatments should be referred to their physician or a podiatrist/chiropodist.
- 7.3 Cutting of the skin. Treatment maybe provided by a member that involves cutting living tissue, if Professional Body approved skills training was obtained. This rule does not in any way prevent the removal of surplus dead skin cells on the heels of feet by mean of a credo blade as provided in SAAHSP approved examination courses. This rule does not in any way prevent removal of hair, comedones, milia or removal of hair by electrical wax or chemical means.
- 7.4 Anaesthetics. The Code of Ethics specifically prohibits the use of injected anaesthetics. Various tests have been done using topical anaesthetics applied to areas subject to epilation and permanent make-up but can be used if so desired.
- 7.5 Skin peeling, which means the removal of the whole or a large part of the epidermis. This rule does not prohibit the use of skin cleansers or minor peelings as included in training courses for Association examinations. Applications for specialised peeling will be considered on merit and qualifications by the Board.

- 7.6 Ultra-violet/Infra-red radiation may not be provided by members unless:
 - 7.6.1 the member in question has undertaken training in the use of ultra-violet or infra red radiation and can use this competently, and
 - 7.6.2 in the case of ultraviolet radiation, a notice must be put up in the clinic indicating the dangers of the treatment. The client must also sign an indemnity to be attached to the record card.
- 7.7 Laser/IPL and (other light therapy) may not be provided by members unless:
 - 7.7.1 the member in question has undertaken training in the use of Laser/IPL and other light therapy and can use this competently, and
 - 7.7.2 in the case of using these treatments, a notice must be put up in the clinic indicating the dangers of the treatment. The client must also sign an indemnity to be attached to the record card.
- 7.8 **Hair removal** from the body (Electrolysis and Electrical Epilation and Cauterisation)
No member may remove hair from the body of a client by electrolysis or electrical epilation unless:
 - 7.8.1 such member has undertaken training recognised by SAAHSP examination board, stating that the holder has been trained, examined, and approved for such hair removal, and
 - 7.8.2 It is compulsory that record cards are kept for this purpose, and
 - 7.8.3 a new disposable needle is used for each client.
- 7.9 **Sales of instruments, equipment, or products.** Members are prohibited from selling equipment/products/instruments that are faulty, defective, dangerous, or harmful.
- 7.10 **Moles and warts.** Removing moles, warts etc in a safe medical aesthetics environment.
- 7.11 **Extractions/Capillary treatments** must be performed under hygienic conditions, using gloves and new sterile, disposable needles/lancets for each client. These needles/lancets must be disposed of in a sealed sharps box or incinerated.

In the case of capillary treatments, the member to have qualifications as approved by Board.
- 7.12 **Varicose veins.** Members are reminded of the need for great care in ensuring that treatments are not performed on the legs of clients if there is any reason to believe that such treatment may aggravate a latent or current varicose condition. If there is any doubt, then the member must ensure that the client has a clearance certificate from his/her physician, agreeing to the treatment being performed.
- 7.13 **Pigment implantation.** This treatment may only be administered by a person who has undergone a specific training in permanent make-up approved by the Professional Body or any other Association.
- 7.14 **Remedial treatments virtually or not in person.** Members are prohibited from suggesting treatments for skin disorder or figure faults virtually, without including warning statements or proper detailed directives. In addition, members may not attempt analysis without personal consultation. This practice should be discouraged, as a therapist is unable to correct or assess a client's skin without consultation. Should treatments be recommended, a letter to accompany same, clearly stating that the therapist will not be held responsible for any incorrect information or analysis due to advice furnished in this manner.
- 7.15 **Needles and probes.** Only disposable needles may be used and all needles and probes to be disposed of after each treatment into a sealed sharp box or incinerated immediately.
- 7.16 **Hot wax.** No wax may be recycled in any way or means.
- 7.17 **Sterilisation.**
Purchase the hygiene and sterilisation manual.
Ensure that you comply with the OHS (Occupational Health and Safety Act).

8. SCOPE OF PRACTISE

This document is accompanied by the detailed scope of practise for each designation. The scope of practise clearly defines which treatments may and may not be performed by therapists. It should be noted that not all members are designated and should ensure to apply to become designated in order to ensure that they practise within the correct scope.

COMMITMENT SHEET

I _____, ID no _____ hereby confirm that

I have read and understand all aspects, criteria, policies, and procedures stated in the above SAAHSP Professional Body Code of Ethics and well as the Scope of Practise.

I hereby agree to abide by these Code of Ethics and Scope of practise.

Signature

Date