

## BRITISH ACUPUNCTURE COUNCIL

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

#### UPDATE NO 1 MARCH 2008

The Executive Committee has approved the following amendments to Code of Professional Conduct:

**Paragraph 9:** Your patient's case notes and records are your property, and you must retain them. Although a patient can seek access to notes they have no legal rights of ownership. However, if a patient requests a copy of their notes, you must follow the procedure laid out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and keep a record of this on the file.

is replaced by

**Paragraph 9:** In most circumstances your patient's case notes are your property, and you must retain them. However, if you are employed or are treating in a multidisciplinary practice or acting as a consultant you must agree ownership of, and the responsibility for, the notes. You must ensure that you have access to the notes in the event of disciplinary action being taken against you, any insurance claims or any civil or criminal proceedings. Although a patient can seek access to notes they have no legal rights of ownership. However, if a patient requests a copy of their notes, you must follow the procedure laid out in the Data Protection Act 1998 and keep a record of this on the file.

**Paragraph 24:** You must allow the patient privacy if they are required to undress for treatment and you must also ensure that you provide adequate clean gowns or blankets for their use.

is replaced by

**Paragraph 24:** You must respect a patient's modesty. You should only ask your patient to undress to the minimum level required by you to carry out an effective examination and/or treatment. You must allow the patient privacy to dress and undress and also ensure that you provide adequate clean gowns or blankets for their use. You should not leave the patient exposed for more time than is necessary to carry out treatment. If treatment involves sensitive or intimate areas of the body you should offer the patient the opportunity to provide a chaperone. This can be a

**spouse, a relative or friend. Alternatively you may be able to provide a chaperone from your practice.**

**Paragraph 38** All advertising must be legal, decent, honest and truthful and must conform to relevant guidelines in the British Code of Advertising Practice, as well as the current guidelines of the BAaC. Your advertisements may include information about any non-acupuncture qualifications and special interests that you may have, but must not make claims of superiority or disparage professional colleagues or other professionals.

is replaced by

**Paragraph 38: All advertising must be legal, decent, honest and truthful and must conform to relevant guidelines in the British Code of Advertising Practice, as well as the current guidelines of the BAaC. Your advertisements may include information about any non-acupuncture qualifications and special interests that you may have, but must not make claims of superiority or disparage professional colleagues or other professionals. You must not use the BAaC logo in any advertising without the explicit authority of the BAaC. This does not include bloc advertisements in Yellow Pages or Thompson Directory.**

**New addition to the Code**

**Paragraph 68: You must uphold the high standards of the acupuncture profession at all times. You must not bring the profession into disrepute by your personal behaviour. For example acts of dishonesty, drunkenness or drug abuse may result in disciplinary action being taken against you.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**You are reminded that it is your responsibility to ensure that you retain these amendments with your existing copy of the Code and also to ensure that you have the most recent version of the Code.**