

I-ACT

Zero Tolerance Policy

Background:

The International Association for Colon Hydrotherapy (I-ACT) recognizes the seriousness and extent of injury that any form of abuse may cause another and therefore supports Zero Tolerance of such abuse in any form: verbal, physical, emotional, financial or sexual, by an I-ACT member colon hydrotherapist.

I-ACT endeavors to provide protection of the public interest by addressing client-member and member-member abuse openly. I-ACT strives to provide an accessible and sensitive reporting process, and establishes deterrents through the administration of a disciplinary process reflecting the serious nature of the violation.

This policy has been created to advise our membership that I-ACT endorses the Principle of Zero Tolerance for abuse in any form and to ensure members understand that abuse in any form is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

In defining abuse, it is important for the professional to be cognizant of the imbalance of power that exists in the professional colon hydrotherapy environment. Clients often seek professional services when they are vulnerable or in a state of pain. A member of this profession has the 'power' by virtue of their authority, knowledge, access to privileged information and the influence they potentially hold over the client, to exploit. It is expected, therefore, that the professional will address the client's needs in a sensitive and caring manner in accordance with the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics for the profession.

I-ACT members will maintain confidentiality of client information, unless given written permission by the client or ordered by the courts. I-ACT members will clearly represent their educational qualifications and inform clients of the limits of their license or certification. I-ACT members should refer clients to an appropriate professional for services if the treatment is not within their scope of practice. I-ACT members will use precautions to do no harm to physical, mental and emotional health of clients and associates.

Abuse can be defined as:

Verbal

Verbal abuse may include but is not limited to, derogatory comments, sarcastic, demeaning or seductive remarks. It is also important to note that the tone of verbal communications may characterize how words are perceived. I-ACT members must be aware that a person's age; culture, socio-economic status and other particular sensitivities may affect how a client perceives communications with an I-ACT member.

Physical

Using unnecessary force in the course of providing treatment.

All therapist members will have an understanding regarding the Ethics of Touch.

All therapist members should follow the guidelines of the manufacturer for equipment use.

All therapist members will be aware of the I-ACT policy on insertion.

Emotional

Where a member of the profession uses the position of power to intimidate or show insensitivity toward the client. Emotional abuse demeans clients in such a way as to lower their sense of personal worth.

Financial

The inappropriate use of a client's funds, property or resources. May include such behaviors as:

- a. Attempting to, or actually persuading, deceiving, or threatening the client to part with their funds, property or possessions;
- b. Recommending excessive treatments with no **clinical indication requiring the same;
- c. Use of a client's money for purposes other than that intended by the client;
- d. Failure to provide to your client a written refund policy and
- e. Failure to provide a refund for services if requested by client.

Sexual

I-ACT defines sexual abuse to include:

- a. Sexual intercourse or other forms of physical sexual relations between the member and the client;
- b. Touching of a sexual nature, of the client by a member;
- c. Behavior or remarks of a sexual nature by the member towards the client; Exception: "sexual nature" does not include touching, behavior or remarks of a clinical nature appropriate to the service provided.
- d. Touch should be therapeutic in nature providing a necessary action related to the treatment for a desired result.

Policy:

I-ACT will investigate and act upon any complaints and information received dealing with allegations of all Of abuse of a client in an effective, timely and sensitive manner.

In relation to those members found in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy, I-ACT will uphold the sanctions mandated by the I-ACT Grievance Committee as approved by the Board. I-ACT is committed to imposing appropriate penalties to reflect the severity of the conduct of concern.