

Standard Operating Procedures, Regulations & Guidelines

For

I-ACT Recognized Schools

&

I-ACT Recognized Colon Hydrotherapy Establishments

OF THE

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
COLON HYDROTHERAPY
(I-ACT)**

These guidelines are a compilation of material gathered from experience and several colon hydrotherapy manuals to establish a mutual understanding. Thanks to all contributors.

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Purpose

(1) These Business and Professional Regulations are promulgated in an effort to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by ensuring that only those who are qualified by certification to administer colon hydrotherapy may do so.

(2) Prior to the administration of colon hydrotherapy, any person shall be required to present certification to the Board of successful completion of a course of study approved by I-ACT through an I-ACT approved colon hydrotherapy school or instructor and certified at the Foundation Level.

Scope of Practice

Colon Hydrotherapy is the introduction of warm, filtered and temperature regulated water into the colon, the waste is softened and loosened, resulting in evacuation through natural peristalsis. This is repeated several times during the session.

Definitions

(1) “Board” means the Board of Directors of the International Association for Colon Hydrotherapy (I-ACT).

(2) “Education Committee” is a group of dedicated members of I-ACT who volunteer their service to recommend educational guidelines to the Board.

(3) “Establishment” means an appropriate site or premises, or portion thereof, where a colon hydrotherapy session occurs

(4) “Colon Hydrotherapy” is the introduction of warm, filtered and temperature regulated water into the colon, the waste is softened and loosened, resulting in evacuation through natural peristalsis. This is repeated several times during the session.

(5) “Student” means a person studying colon hydrotherapy at any of the four Levels of training (i.e., Foundation Level, Intermediate Level, Advanced Level, or Instructor Level).

(6) “Instructor” means a certified colon hydrotherapist who plans to carry out the training and instruction of a student for a limited period of time. Instructors may train one to two students at a time.

(7) “Certification” means the procedure by which a colon hydrotherapist applies to the Board for approval documenting the student has successfully passed the I-ACT certification examination and fulfilled all requirements for each level of certification.

(8) “I-ACT recognized colon hydrotherapy school” means a facility which agrees to comply with the training and curriculum as recommended by I-ACT. Each school must be in compliance with the laws of their state. Schools may train as many students as they have room for.

(9) Equipment Classification
Enema Kit

From the code of federal regulations (CFR) 876.5210 Enema Kit. (

a) Identification. An enema kit is a device intended to instill water or other fluids into the colon through a nozzle inserted into the rectum to promote evacuation of the contents of the lower colon. The device consists of a container for fluid connected to the nozzle either directly or via tubing. This device does not include the colonic irrigation system (Sec. 876.5220).

(b) Classification. Class I (general controls). The device is exempt from the premarket notification procedures in subpart E of part 807 of this chapter subject to Sec. 876.9. The device is exempt from the current good manufacturing practice regulations in part 820 of this chapter, with the exception of Sec. 820.180 of this chapter, with respect to general requirements concerning records, and Sec. 820.198 of this chapter, with respect to complaint files. [48 FR 53023, Nov. 23, 1963, as amended at 65 FR 2317, Jan. 14, 2000]

Colonic Irrigation System

From the code of federal regulations (CFR) Sec. 876.5220 Colonic irrigation system.

(a) Identification. A colonic irrigation system is a device intended to instill water into the colon through a nozzle inserted into the rectum to cleanse (evacuate) the contents of the lower colon. The system is designed to allow evacuation of the contents of the colon during the administration of the colonic irrigation. The device consists of a container for fluid connected to the nozzle via tubing and includes a system which enables the pressure, temperature, or flow of water through the nozzle to be controlled. The device may include a console-type toilet and necessary fittings to allow the device to be connected to water and sewer pipes. The device may use electrical power to heat the water. The device does not include the enema kit (Sec. 876.5210).

(b) Classification. (1) Class II (performance standards) when the device is intended for colon cleansing when medically indicated, such as before radiological or endoscopic examinations. (2) Class III (premarket approval) when the device is intended for other uses, including colon cleansing routinely for general well being.

(c) Date PMA or notice of completion of a PDP is required. A PMA or a notice of completion of a PDP is required to be filed with the Food and Drug Administration on or before December 26, 1996 for any colonic irrigation system described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976, or that has, on or before December 26, 1996 been found to be substantially equivalent to a colonic irrigation system described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section that was in commercial distribution before May 28, 1976. Any other colonic irrigation system shall have an approved PMA in effect before being placed in commercial distribution. [48 FR 53023, Nov. 23, 1983, as amended at 52 FR 17738, May 11, 1987; 61 FR 50707, Sept. 27, 1996]

Qualifications for Individual Certification

(1) Any person is qualified for certification as a colon hydrotherapist who:

(a) Has presented certification to the Board of successful completion of a course of study approved by I-ACT through an I-ACT recognized colon hydrotherapy school or instructor and certified at the Foundation Level; or, who has presented documentation they have been practicing in the field of colon hydrotherapy for more than one year and have performed more than 100 colonics in the past year and has passed a mandatory eight (8) hour course put on by an I-ACT instructor or school.

(b) Has taken the I-ACT written test and received a passing grade.

(c) Has completed the remaining requirements as directed by the I-ACT Board.

Examinations

(1) A written examination for each level of certification shall be offered by I-ACT at least once yearly (at the annual convention), at regional meetings, at I-ACT recognized schools or with an I-ACT Instructor. There is a fee of \$75.00 for each level of examination.

(a) The testing for Level 4 (Instructor Level) requires the completion of a 60 hour course put on by an I-ACT school or with an I-ACT Instructor. During that training, the individual will teach for a total of four instructor hours. Three {3} hours may be accomplished at an I-ACT recognized school, or with an I-ACT Instructor (it is desired that minimum of 8 individuals attend the instructor presentations). One hour must be completed at an I-ACT Convention (at a minimum, the presenting instructor should wear business casual attire). In addition, the prospective instructor must attend a mandatory two hour instructor workshop provided at the convention. After attending the mandatory 60 hour Instructor class, the instructor candidate may practice the one hour presentation at Regional meetings.

(2) Upon an applicant's passing the test and paying the initial certification fee and fulfilling all requirements for I-ACT Level 1, I-ACT shall then certify the individual at the Foundation Level. Completion of the requirements for Level 2, 3 or 4 will cause I-ACT to certify the individual at that level.

(3) All certification examinations must be proctored and an accurate record of each examination shall be made; and that record, together with all examination papers, shall be filed by I-ACT or the school certifying the examination and be kept indefinitely.

(4) Members testing at the convention be allowed to take a test 2 times during the convention. If the member fails the exam 2 times they will be required to show additional training before they can retest. They may retest and pay \$75 for the test. If they fail this test they will be required to wait 6 months and show they have additional training. Before they can retest and pay an additional \$75 test fee. If the person does not pass this exam they will be required to retrain with A & P at a school, instructor or tutor and present a transcript.

(5) Maximum time allowed for Level 1 & 2 exam shall be 2 hours, and maximum time allowed for Level 3 exam shall be 3 hours. This time may be extended by the proctor as required for International students that English is not their first language or if the student has documented learning disabilities .

Posting of Certificates

(1) All members shall post their I-ACT Certificate in their colonic establishment for easy viewing by the public.

Inactive Status

(1) A member becomes inactive when an I-ACT member fails to renew their I-ACT membership, within 90 days of expiration of membership and pays an Inactive status fee of \$25.00 per year. Once a member goes inactive, they may reinstate their status by paying current years dues. However, any individual that allows their membership to I-ACT to be terminated automatically loses all levels of certification they had received. This individual must retest on each level before that level of certification may be reinstated.

I-ACT Recognized Colon Hydrotherapy School Criteria

(1) The Board shall adopt reasonable standards, for I-ACT recognized schools.

(a) An I-ACT school must have at least one certified I-ACT Instructor on staff, and all training shall be conducted or supervised by an I-ACT Instructor.

(b) The school shall teach colon hydrotherapy utilizing the I-ACT Syllabus for the Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced, or Instructor Level as appropriate to the class.

(c) The school must provide I-ACT testing at the completion of each course of training.

(d) The school must comply with all guidelines of the I-ACT's Standard Operating Procedures, Regulations & Guidelines.

(2) Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to operate a colon hydrotherapy school shall submit to I-ACT, accompanied by any information requested by I-ACT, an application for recognition fee as directed by the I-ACT Board. Additionally the school must submit proof that they are in compliance with all state laws.

(3) I-ACT retains the right to visit any recognized school as it deems necessary.

Disciplinary Guidelines

Grounds for Disciplinary Action

(1) Attempting to procure a certificate to administer colon hydrotherapy by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation.

(2) Practice or offering to practice beyond the scope permitted by law or accepting and performing professional responsibilities which the certified colon hydrotherapist knows or has reason to know that he/she is not competent nor authorized to perform.

(3) Refusing to permit I-ACT to visit the business premises of the certified colon hydrotherapist on reasonable notice.

(4) Failing to keep the equipment and premises of the colon hydrotherapy establishment in a clean and sanitary condition on the inside and outside of the building.

(5) Conviction of felony after membership and certification.

(6) Behavior detrimental to the profession or goals of the association.

(7) Inappropriate advertising inconsistent with I-ACT guidelines.

(8) Three verifiable grievances that have gone through the grievance process and have been determined by the Board to have merit.

Disciplinary Action

When the Board finds any person is acting in violation of any rules, it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:

(a) Refusal to certify any person, but that person can reapply within 90 days with a new application fee of \$75.00.

(b) Issuance of a reprimand or censure by promulgated, unanimous decision of the Board.

(c) Revocation of a certificate and suspension of the right to hold themselves out as an I-ACT certified colon hydrotherapist.

It is understood that any investigation, decertification, or censuring of a member, may cause I-ACT to expend funds for that investigation and may result in an expense or a cost. The person or member involved will be expected to pay this cost within 30 days. If the fee is not paid it will cause expulsion for the applicant.

Grievance Policy

1) Grievances brought forth by the public will be considered for review by the grievance committee for issues involving the following criteria:

Those within the Standard Operating Procedures and By-Laws of I-ACT. (for example: complaints concerning scope of practice, ethics, advertising, facilities, cleanliness, and reuse of disposables. This is not an all inclusive list.)

A grievance must be in written form and signed.

2) Grievances brought forth by members of I-ACT against an Officer of the Board or Board Member, or fellow member:

Grievances considered will be those within the Standard Operating Procedures and By-Laws of I-ACT.

A grievance must be in written form and signed.

3) Grievances regarding I-ACT recognized schools will only be accepted if they pertain to, education, testing and the Standard Operating Procedures or I-ACT By-Laws.

A grievance must be in written form and signed.

4) Grievances regarding manufacturers or products are not within I-ACT authority or responsibility.

Disclaimer: I-ACT assumes no responsibility, legal or otherwise, for the outcome and/or resolution of any grievance.

STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOLS

1. INDICATION FOR COLON HYDROTHERAPY: Must be in absolute compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 for the Class of equipment in use. Use the indications approved by the FDA for your equipment (ie, constipation, etc.)
2. EFFECTS: Colon irrigation.
3. ROUTE: Administered rectally.
4. FREQUENCY: Based on the client's response and need as indicated by their physician or healthcare practitioner.
5. DURATION: Time required for administration is normally based upon the needs of the client however, in all cases the guidelines of the manufacturer should be followed.
6. RELEVANT HAZARDS: To ensure the highest level of safety for the consumer, always use FDA registered equipment.

There are reports of cross contamination due to improperly cleaned / disinfected equipment or table on equipment that was not registered with the FDA.

Always follow your manufacturer guidelines for cleansing your equipment to ensure there is no spread of disease, etc.

Improper use of the equipment by not following the guidelines of the manufacturer may cause injury (ie. alleged perforation of the colon).

Under no circumstances should single use devices be reused.

Under no circumstances should FDA registered equipment be modified or altered without the manufacturer's permission.

7. CONTRAINDICATIONS: Follow the guidelines of your manufacturer.
8. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS: Weakness, nausea, vomiting, hunger, flatulence, fatigue, dizziness, abnormal energy, etc.
9. PRECAUTIONS: None. Follow the manufacturers guidelines for your equipment.

STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOLS, continued

REFERRING HEALTH CARE GIVER

1. All records should be made available to referring or consulting health care givers associated with the client and their therapies provided that a properly written release form is executed by the client beforehand.
2. Therapies for referral clients SHALL conform to the prescription or instructions of the referring health care giver. Client responses to indicated therapies and findings associated with all aspects of colon hydrotherapy care SHALL be reported to the referring health care giver on request.

Under no circumstances will the colon hydrotherapist prescribe or suggest other therapies, additional sessions, procedures, nutritional supplements, etc. to the client that were not originally prescribed or ordered by the referring physician or health care professional. The colon hydrotherapist may communicate to the referring health care professional an additional number of sessions to facilitate the prescription instructions

THE SESSION

1. Follow the instructions for the session as recommended by the prescription and consistent with the guidelines of the manufacturer of your equipment.
2. All techniques, methods, and procedures that are to be used during the colon hydrotherapy session must be completely and thoroughly explained to the client in advance. In no case should any additional technique be used without the permission of the client.
3. The client must be attended, or the therapist will be immediately available to the client, during the session at all times.
4. The Therapist must be professionally groomed and attired. The client SHALL be modestly draped with an acceptable gown or covering during all procedures. Techniques used in colon hydrotherapy procedures SHALL be adopted with the attempt to maximize the client's overall personal privacy and modesty, to maintain the client's dignity, state of comfort and ease.
5. The Therapist must ensure there is no action, language, or behavior that may be interpreted as a sexual advance.
6. The Therapist must ensure they stay in their scope of practice or areas that they are licensed by law to practice.
7. Even though gloves are used, hands and nails must be thoroughly washed with an antibacterial, antifungal soap before and after each client, and as necessary during the session.
8. When using Class 1 FDA registered equipment, the client must insert and remove the speculum/rectal nozzle; for Class 2 FDA registered equipment, follow the guidelines/instructions of the manufacturer of your equipment.

STANDARD OPERATING PROTOCOLS, continued

9. To ensure the safety of the client, follow the manufacturer recommendations for procedures to be used during the session. In no case should the recommendation of the manufacturer be exceeded or ignored.
10. At the end of the session, clean, sanitize, and disinfect the equipment according to guidelines provided by the manufacturer of your equipment.

PHYSICAL PREMISES

1. The design and physical layout of the premises, installation and maintenance of equipment, plumbing, electrical wiring, egress and ingress routes, parking and public access should conform to all local, county, and state zoning regulations. All facilities should have the proper occupancy permits and approvals by the local Board of Health, where required.
2. A separate client waiting area should be maintained.
3. Restroom facilities should be provided for and located at a convenient distance from the session room table. The restroom should have a toilet and a sink which should be used for hand washing after toileting only. A pump-type soap dispenser is the desired method of dispensing soap and should be used for maximum sanitation.

ADVERTISING

1. The onus of responsibility should be on the colon hydrotherapist to maintain an absolutely factual and true representation of the colon hydrotherapy procedure and profession in all advertising, whether printed page or electronic media.
2. Advertising copy which states or implies that colon hydrotherapy can treat any disease, promise cure for any disease, or that makes unsubstantiated medical claims **SHALL NOT** be used.

I-ACT POLICY STATEMENTS

I-ACT recommends the use of currently registered FDA equipment and only disposable speculums, rectal tubes, or rectal nozzles. However, should the Therapist use reusable speculums, these speculums should, at a minimum, be autoclaved for sanitation and cleanliness (30 minutes). Additionally, the autoclave unit must be tested and inspected by competent authority at least four times per year- maintain documentation. (Under NO conditions should a disposable speculum or rectal tube be reused).

I-ACT recognizes the FDA classifies equipment used to instill water into the colon through a nozzle [speculum/rectal tube] inserted into the rectum to evacuate the contents of the colon into three distinct classes; Class I (Enema Kits), Class II and Class III are (Colon Irrigation Systems).

I-ACT POLICY STATEMENTS, continued

Follow the guidelines of your manufacturer, as approved by the FDA for the type of equipment (devices) you are using. Make no claims as to the use of your device other than those approved by the FDA. The main difference between Class I and Class II devices is that Class I devices do not have any safety features and manufacturers of Class I devices may not have any third party oversight as they do not have to comply with the good manufacturing practices that are required of Class II manufacturers. The FDA requires Class II devices to be sold on or at the order of a physician or healthcare practitioner. This may be different in each state. Ensure you are in compliance with your local, state, federal and country guidelines. Ensure equipment you purchase is cleared for use in your country.

I-ACT recognizes there are two distinct types of colon irrigation systems; open and closed systems. However, it is I-ACT policy that the colon hydrotherapist / technician is always in attendance / or is immediately available to the client throughout the session. The degree of assistance is to be in compliance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the equipment as registered with the FDA, and/or as directed by a physician.

The policy on insertion is to follow the instruction of the referring physician; the guidelines of the manufacturer as approved by the FDA; or the directives from the authority of your city, county, state, or country ordinances.

I-ACT recommends that you do not put the initials (CT) for colon hydrotherapist after your name, write it out in full. According to most state laws, putting initials after your name is not allowed unless you are licensed or have a degree from an accredited professional school.

I-ACT does not and cannot approve any literature, manuals, or other documents. The only materials that are I-ACT approved are materials that are generated and published from the I-ACT office.

Advertising copy which states or implies that colon hydrotherapy can treat any disease, promise cure for any disease, or that makes unsubstantiated medical claims SHALL NOT be used.

Additionally, I-ACT recommends each therapist not using FDA registered equipment consider upgrading their equipment to FDA registered equipment in the very near future.

RECOMMENDED CHECK LIST
(TO BE KEPT UP TO DATE AT ALL TIMES)

1. Keep a list of all major contraindications to colon hydrotherapy from the manufacturer of your equipment readily available.
2. Keep a completed, detailed and **signed** Intake Questionnaire and a current and accurate history of all clients, being careful not to make any recommendations in print or verbal.
3. Keep the original of the doctor's prescription in your clients file.
4. Keep a checklist of equipment operation procedure which should include a record of settings used on each individual client.
5. DO NOT make any medical claims or have any literature making such claims.
6. Keep an emergency procedure checklist available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances.
7. Keep the manufacturer's operation manual in close proximity to your equipment.
8. Keep a maintenance record on your equipment and include any related repair orders.
9. Keep available the name, phone number, and address of any authorized repair company, usually the equipment manufacturer.
10. Use filtered water during session and keep a record of filter element life.
11. Use currently cleared FDA modern equipment. Have your currently cleared FDA equipment properly installed by a licensed plumber, making sure that the waste hose is correctly connected to the exiting sewer system, and ensure that it adheres to all local plumbing codes.
12. Keep your equipment clean, sanitized and in good operating condition, and never bypass or alter any safety features or any other features your manufacturer has installed without manufacturer permission.
13. Single use disposables are strongly recommended, NEVER reuse any part of the disposable kit, even if it were to be used on the same client on a return visit. IF Stainless Steel speculum are used, the speculum should be autoclaved for safety and sanitation. Additionally, the autoclave unit must be tested and inspected by competent authority at least four times per year (maintain documentation). This procedure must be in compliance with laws of your state for sterilization of stainless steel hospital equipment.
14. Always use sanitizing solution in concentrations recommended by the manufacturer.
15. Be aware that perceptions of cleanliness is of the utmost importance to members of any health department. This includes not only the appearance of your facility but your personal appearance as well.
16. Keep accurate bookkeeping and tax records.