



Brief Ethical Guidelines

IAGP Core Principles from the Code of Ethics and Professional Standards for Group Psychotherapy

1. At all times strive to do no harm to your patients.
2. Keep your personal and professional boundaries intact in all your relations with your patients. Restrict financial arrangements with patients to payment for services. Sexual relations with patients are never appropriate.
3. Be open about the limits of your clinical skills and refer patients for treatment in areas outside your ability to treat.
4. Show respect in all communication with your colleagues, especially when their opinion differs from yours.
5. Take the necessary time to develop relationships with those colleagues who are your co-therapists or with whom you must collaborate closely in order to better serve your patients.
6. Continue to study and learn from your patients and your colleagues, always remembering the complexity of the task before you.
7. Always guard the confidentiality of your communication with your patients, except in extraordinary cases when the patient threatens to harm him or her self or a person designated by name.
8. Respect the diversity and otherness of your patients. Their world view may differ greatly from your own.
9. Be aware of your obligation as a healer to the larger international community and use your skills to promote understanding and conflict resolution whenever possible.
10. Be modest in realizing what you can achieve in your special role as group psychotherapist. Never underestimate your power in the lives of your patients and never exaggerate what you can do to help them.
11. Make an effort to treat patients with special needs and physical handicaps whenever possible.
12. Adhere to the values of honesty and the principles expressed in the Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations.
13. Obtain informed consent when initiating scientific investigations with your patients as subjects.
14. Strive to be happy and joyful in your work. You work in a field that is like no other in its large responsibilities and its deep satisfactions.

The latest complete version of IAGP's Ethical Guidelines, including contact details for the chair of Ethics, can be found at: <http://www.iagp.com/about/ethicalguidelines.htm>