

European Ethical Guidelines

for

Eurythmy Therapists



**International
Eurythmy Therapy Forum**

Medical Section
of the School of Spiritual Science
at the Goetheanum, Switzerland

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Medical Section
of the School of Spiritual Science
at the Goetheanum, Dornach, Switzerland

Tel. 0049 - (0)2302-94 12 03

Fax 0049 - (0)2302-94 12 05

E-mail:

ajaschke (at) heileurythmie-medsektion.net

info (at) heileurythmie-medsektion.net

Internet:

www.medsektion-goetheanum.org

www.heileurythmie-medsektion.net

Bank details:

Volksbank Dreiländereck EG

Med. Sektion / Förderstiftung AM

KTO: 970760

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General principles

Eurythmy Therapists base their work on an anthroposophical image of the human being and the ethical principles arising from that. This image is based on the assumption that every human being is a developing being consisting of body, soul and spirit.

Basis of relationship between Eurythmy Therapist and Patient

The Eurythmy Therapist is committed to

- respect the patient's rights
(in accordance with the the European Charter of Patients' Rights put forward by the 'Active Citizens Network' which contains the following 14 points, recognized and sanctioned by the European Economic and Social Committee).

This includes specifically the right to

- preventive measures,
 - access,
 - information,
 - consent,
 - freedom of choice,
 - privacy and confidentiality,
 - prompt/timely treatment,
 - the observance of quality standards,
 - safety,
 - innovation,
 - the avoidance of unnecessary suffering and pain,
 - personalized treatment,
 - complain,
 - compensation.
- These rights apply to the whole health system.
 - The Eurythmy Therapist is committed particular to the following:
 - to practise their profession conscientiously and live up to the trust shown to them,
 - to offer help within one's capacities regardless of age, gender, nationality or religion,
 - to respect the patient's dignity and freedom,
 - never to exploit the needs of the patient to serve their own needs.

Principles for professional conduct between Eurythmy Therapists, Doctors and other Professionals

Eurythmy Therapists work

- independently and responsibly within their specialist field – normally with the doctor and other professionals for the patient’s wellbeing, in accordance with the doctor’s prescription.

Personal Principles

Eurythmy Therapists should

- act responsibly within the limits of their own resources,
- act professionally in a way that upholds the public image of eurythmy therapy,
- maintain a healthy balance with regard to their own needs and the demands of the patient,
- contribute towards the further development of their profession and of eurythmy therapy as a whole.

EUROPEAN CHARTER of PATIENTS' RIGHTS

1 - RIGHT TO PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Every individual has the right to a proper service in order to prevent illness.

2 - RIGHT TO ACCESS

Every individual has the right of access to the health services that his or her health needs require. The health services must guarantee equal access to everyone, without discriminating on the basis of financial resources, place of residence, kind of illness or time of access to services.

3 - RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Every individual has the right to access to all information regarding their state of health, the health services and how to use them, and all that scientific research and technological innovation makes available.

4 - RIGHT TO CONSENT

Every individual has the right of access to all information that might enable him or her to actively participate in the decisions regarding his or her health; this information is a prerequisite for any procedure and treatment, including the participation in scientific research.

5 - RIGHT TO FREE CHOICE

Each individual has the right to freely choose from among different treatment procedures and providers on the basis of adequate information.

6 - RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Every individual has the right to the confidentiality of personal information, including information regarding his or her state of health and potential diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, as well as the protection of his or her privacy during the performance of diagnostic exams, specialist visits, and medical/surgical treatments in general.

7 - RIGHT TO RESPECT OF PATIENTS' TIME

Each individual has the right to receive necessary treatment within a swift and predetermined period of time. This right applies at each phase of the treatment.

8 - RIGHT TO THE OBSERVANCE OF QUALITY STANDARDS

Each individual has the right of access to high quality health services on the basis of the specification and observance of precise standards.

9 - RIGHT TO SAFETY

Each individual has the right to be free from harm caused by the poor functioning of health services, medical malpractice and errors, and the right of access to health services and treatments that meet high safety standards.

10 - RIGHT TO INNOVATION

Each individual has the right of access to innovative procedures, including diagnostic procedures, according to international standards and independently of economic or financial considerations.

11 - **RIGHT TO AVOID UNNECESSARY SUFFERING AND PAIN**

Each individual has the right to avoid as much suffering and pain as possible, in each phase of his or her illness.

12 - **RIGHT TO PERSONALIZED TREATMENT**

Each individual has the right to diagnostic or therapeutic programmes tailored as much as possible to his or her personal needs.

13 - **RIGHT TO COMPLAIN**

Each individual has the right to complain whenever he or she has suffered a harm and the right to receive a response or other feedback.

14 - **RIGHT TO COMPENSATION**

Each individual has the right to receive sufficient compensation within a reasonably short time whenever he or she has suffered physical or moral and psychological harm caused by a health service treatment.

Association Ltd, Ireland; Danish Consumer Council, Denmark; Vereniging Samenwerkende Ouder - en Patiëntenorganisaties (VSOP), Netherlands; International Neurotrauma Research Organization, Austria; Nederlandse Patiënten Consumenten Federatie (NPCF), Netherlands; The Patients Association, UK.

RIGHTS OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

In order to promote and verify the implementation of the above stated patients' rights, some citizens' rights must be proclaimed. They mainly regard groups of organized citizens with the unique role to support and empower individuals in protecting their own rights.

1. Right to perform general interest activities
2. Right to perform advocacy activities
3. Right to participate in policy-making in the area of health

* These rights are contained in article 12, section 1, of the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Organizations that participated in the drafting of the Charter:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Versicherte und Patienten e. V. (DGVPV), Germany; Fédération Belge contre le Cancer, Belgium; APOVITA, Portugal; Confederación de Consumidores y Usurarios (CECU), Spain; KE.P.KA, Greece; Irish Patients

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Active Citizenship Network

via Flaminia 53 - 00196 Rome (Italy)
tel+ 39 06 36 71 83 76 -fax+39 06 36 71 83 33
www.activecitizenship.net
info@activecitizenship.net