



NZASA Position Statement

Treatment of family members, whānau, and others close to you

All patients are entitled to a high standard of care from a registered member of NZASA. Lack of objectivity can be a problem when providing treatment to family members and those close to you.

Other problems which can arise from treating family members and those close to you are:

- Professional judgment may be impaired due to the personal nature of the relationship and this can impact on clinical decision making, diagnosis and treatment.
- The dynamics of the relationship may create a power imbalance which could impede the patient's ability to give informed consent or consider an alternative provider and/or make a complaint. It may also make it difficult for the practitioner to refuse to provide care.

It is not best practice for any health practitioner to treat a family member or person close to them (including colleagues). However, NZASA acknowledges that there are some exceptions.

a) In an emergency, members may provide treatment to themselves and family members until another practitioner is available.

b) If a member is in an isolated or rural community where there are no other appropriately qualified acupuncturist/Chinese Medicine practitioners available to give the required treatment.

c) It is acceptable for members to treat themselves or family members for minor or self-limiting conditions.

All treatments for family members should be recorded in full.

Do not invoice ACC for any treatments given to family members or those close to you.

NZASA members must understand and abide by the policies or recommendations of insurers or third-party payers regarding invoicing and remuneration for the treatment of family members and others close to them.

ACC considers it generally inappropriate and unethical for treatment providers to claim payment for treating family unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Members are advised to refer to the following statement from ACC.

<https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/provider/dd7d43ebb2/Position-Statement-Treatment-of-Family.pdf>

If you are uncertain about the exceptional circumstances criteria or think you require another opinion, you should speak with your local ACC Engagement and Performance Manager prior to undertaking any treatment. Contact details can be found on the ACC website:

www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/provide-services/engagement-performance-managers

July 2020