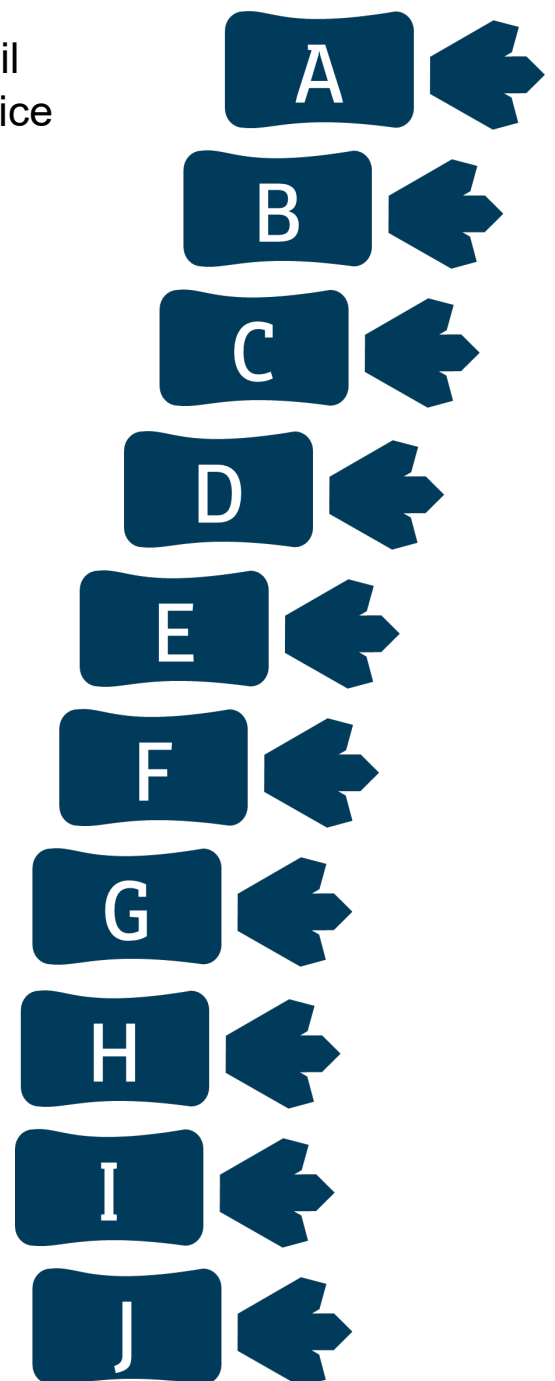


Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

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to support the Code of Professional Practice



This table compares the standards of proficiency in the Code (2016) with the standards of proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice that will come into effect on 1 January 2026.

Principle A			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
A1	show respect, compassion and care for your patients by listening to them and acknowledging their views and decisions. You must not put any pressure on a patient to accept your advice	A2	show respect, compassion and care for the patient. You must find out what matters to them and consider their needs and preferences. You must respond honestly and openly to their questions and must not pressure the patient to accept your advice.
A2	respect patients' privacy, dignity and cultural differences and their rights prescribed by law.	A4	respect the patient's privacy, dignity and their right to choose who is present when their care is discussed and provided.
A3	take appropriate action if you have concerns about the safety of a patient.	See Principle B	
A4	treat patients fairly and without discrimination and recognise diversity and individual choice.	A5	treat the patient fairly and without discrimination, interacting in a way that respects their choices, diversity and culture.
A5	prioritise patients' health and welfare at all times when carrying out assessments, making referrals or providing or arranging care. Respect a patient's right for a second opinion.	A1	put the patient's needs and safety at the centre of their care
A6	treat patients in a hygienic and safe environment.	See Principle B	
A7	safeguard the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults. As a professional, you must fulfil your legal obligations if you suspect that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk from abuse or neglect by following established local procedures for reporting that suspicion.	A6	<p>safeguard children and vulnerable adults by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering their safety and welfare; • assessing their vulnerability; • actively looking for signs of abuse. <p>When you suspect a child or vulnerable adult could be at risk of, or suffering, abuse or neglect, you must promptly follow the established local safeguarding arrangements to report your concern. You must record your suspicions and actions.</p>

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

	New standard	A3	<p>provide care based upon the principles of a person-centred approach by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. engaging effectively with the patient through individualised conversations and interactions;ii. enabling and supporting the patient in their care, health and wellbeing;iii. involving the patient in decisions about their care;iv. collaboratively supporting and managing the patient when they have a high complexity of physical, psychological and social factors.
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Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle B			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
A3	take appropriate action if you have concerns about the safety of a patient.	B2	act promptly and appropriately when you have concerns about the safety of a patient, and record what you did.
A6	treat patients in a hygienic and safe environment.	B3	practise in a safe, hygienic environment where you actively identify and control risks. You must ensure all equipment you use is safe and meets relevant safety standards. You must plan for first aid and other emergencies.
C9	ensure all equipment used in your practice is safe and meets all relevant regulatory standards		
	New standard	B1	protect patients by promoting and maintaining a culture of safety, seeking to prevent harm before it occurs.
	New standard	B4	recognise safety incidents that risk the safety of a patient or another person, or have the potential to do so ("near miss"). You must understand the importance of reporting incidents through a suitable safety system, so that you, and the wider profession, can learn from them.
	New standard	B5	recognise the importance of promoting accessible healthcare for all patients, and recognise how this can be supported in your practice.
	New standard	B6	collect, evaluate and use feedback and data about the quality of care of patients to continuously improve your practice.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle C			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
B1	protect patients and colleagues from harm if your health, conduct or performance, or that of a regulated healthcare professional, puts patients at risk.	C1	look after your health and wellbeing, seeking support when necessary. You must protect others from harm caused by the health, conduct or performance of you or any other regulated healthcare professional.
B3	ensure your advertising is legal, decent, honest and truthful as defined by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and conforms to their current guidance, such as the CAP Code.	C5	when telling people about your services, ensure that all information is factual, verifiable, does not mislead, or exploit their vulnerability or lack of health knowledge. Where you delegate this, the accountability sits with you.
B3	ensure your advertising is legal, decent, honest and truthful as defined by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) and conforms to their current guidance, such as the CAP Code.	C4	take responsibility, as an autonomous healthcare professional, for keeping up to date with, and following relevant legislation, regulations, codes of practice and GCC guidance.
G2	maintain your knowledge to ensure it is up to date and accurate in terms of the law, regulations relevant to your work and GCC guidance.		
H2	only disclose personal information without patient consent if required to do so by law.		
H7	give patients access to their personal health records as required by law.		
B4	strictly maintain patient confidentiality when communicating publicly or privately, including in any form of social media or when speaking to or writing in the media.	C8	respect confidential information about the patient and preserve their dignity at all times, including online, during remote consultations, and when referring to them anonymously.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

B7	fulfil the duty of candour by being open and honest with every patient. You must inform the patient if something goes wrong with their care which causes, or has the potential to cause, harm or distress. You must offer an apology, a suitable remedy or support, along with an explanation as to what has happened.	C11	fulfil the duty of candour by being open and honest with the patient. Inform them if something goes wrong with their care which causes, or could cause, harm or distress. You must offer an apology, a suitable remedy or support, and an explanation of resulting actions.
B8	justify and record your reasons for either refusing care or discontinuing care for a patient. You must explain, in a fair and unbiased manner, how they might find out about other healthcare professionals who may be able to offer care.	C14	have a reasonable justification for refusing or discontinuing care for a patient. You must record this. You must explain how they can find other healthcare professionals who could offer care, in a fair and unbiased way.
	New standard	C6	ensure health information you share publicly is consistent with the best quality of evidence that is available at the time, and is credible and accessible to the intended audience.
	New standard	C12	ensure your personal biases, values and beliefs do not prejudice the care that you provide to the patient, your personal interactions, or your professional reputation.
	New standard	C13	promote equality, diversity and inclusion, challenge discrimination and seek to tackle inequalities. You must raise concerns about colleagues if you believe they are treating people unfairly, have discriminated against someone or if their personal biases have prejudiced the care they provide. When raising concerns you must follow the relevant local procedures to maintain the safety of everyone involved.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle D			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
C1	obtain and document the case history of each patient, using suitable methods to draw out the necessary information.	D1	take and record a thorough case history for the patient.
C2	when carrying out a physical examination of a patient use diagnostic methods and tools that give due regard to patient health and dignity. You must document the results of the examination in the patient's records and fully explain these to the patient.	D3	with the valid consent of the patient, carry out an appropriate physical examination, prioritising methods supported by the best quality of evidence that is available at the time. You must explain to the patient (and record) the results of the examination.
C3	use the results of your clinical assessment of the patient to arrive at a working diagnosis or rationale for care which you must document. You must keep the patient fully informed.	D5	use the results of your clinical assessment of the patient to arrive at a working diagnosis or rationale for care which you must record and keep under review. You must keep the patient informed, including about any diagnostic uncertainty.
C4	develop, apply and document a plan of care in full agreement with the patient. You must check the effectiveness of the care and keep the plan of care under review. A more formal reassessment of the effectiveness of the plan of care must be undertaken at intervals that suit the patient and their needs. All subsequent modifications to the plan of care must be discussed and agreed with the patient and properly documented.	D6	use the findings of the clinical assessment and the best quality of evidence that is available at the time, to propose (and record) a plan of care for the patient. You must tell the patient where your proposals are not supported by evidence of accepted quality and record your rationale and discussions.
E1	share with the patient accurate, relevant and clear information to enable the patient to make informed decisions about their health needs and relevant care options. You must also take into consideration a patient's capacity to understand.	D7	inform the patient of the risks and benefits to the proposed plan of care. You must inform them of alternatives to the proposed plan of care including evidence-based options that may be provided by other healthcare professionals, and the expected natural history (prognosis without any care).
F1	explore care options, risks and benefits with patients, encouraging them to ask questions. You must answer fully and honestly, bearing in mind patients are unlikely to possess clinical knowledge.		

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

C4	develop, apply and document a plan of care in full agreement with the patient. You must check the effectiveness of the care and keep the plan of care under review. A more formal reassessment of the effectiveness of the plan of care must be undertaken at intervals that suit the patient and their needs. All subsequent modifications to the plan of care must be discussed and agreed with the patient and properly documented.	D8	<p>apply evidence-based practice to develop, implement and record a personalised plan of care, in partnership with the patient.</p> <p>You must record and explain to the patient how progress towards the planned health outcomes of the care will be evaluated and set timescales.</p> <p>You must obtain and record the valid consent of the patient before implementing the plan of care. You must not propose a plan of care that is excessive or that is not justified by a robust, recorded clinical assessment.</p>
C4	develop, apply and document a plan of care in full agreement with the patient. You must check the effectiveness of the care and keep the plan of care under review. A more formal reassessment of the effectiveness of the plan of care must be undertaken at intervals that suit the patient and their needs. All subsequent modifications to the plan of care must be discussed and agreed with the patient and properly documented.	D9	<p>continuously monitor and record the patient's progress towards their planned health outcomes, evaluating and adapting the plan of care to meet their needs.</p> <p>You must carry out formal clinical reassessments at regular intervals, using recognised outcome measures to evaluate the effectiveness of care, as previously agreed with the patient and set out in their plan of care.</p>
C4	develop, apply and document a plan of care in full agreement with the patient. You must check the effectiveness of the care and keep the plan of care under review. A more formal reassessment of the effectiveness of the plan of care must be undertaken at intervals that suit the patient and their needs. All subsequent modifications to the plan of care must be discussed and agreed with the patient and properly documented.	D10	<p>discuss with the patient their progression towards their planned health outcomes, agree any continuation or modification to their plan of care and record valid consent.</p>

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

C5	select and apply appropriate evidence-based care which meets the preferences of the patient at that time.	D11	use evidence-based practice to select and implement safe, appropriate, care that meets the needs and preferences of the patient. This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manual techniques; • rehabilitative interventions; • psychologically informed approaches; • education and advice. You must encourage and support patients to self-manage their health, signposting them to relevant resources.
C6	cease care, or aspects of care, if this is requested by the patient or if, in your professional judgement, the care will not be effective, or if, on review, it is in the patient's best interest to stop. You must refer the patient to another healthcare professional where it is in their best interests.	D10	discuss with the patient their progression towards their planned health outcomes, agree any continuation or modification to their plan of care and record valid consent.
C6	cease care, or aspects of care, if this is requested by the patient or if, in your professional judgement, the care will not be effective, or if, on review, it is in the patient's best interest to stop. You must refer the patient to another healthcare professional where it is in their best interests.	D12	with the valid consent of the patient make, receive and implement effective referrals to other healthcare professionals, in the best interest of the patient.
C7	follow appropriate referral procedures when making a referral or a patient has been referred to you; this must include keeping the healthcare professional making the referral informed. You must obtain consent from the patient to do this.		
C8	ensure that investigations, if undertaken, are in the patient's best interests and minimise risk to the patient. All investigations must be consented to by the patient. You must record the rationale for, and outcomes of, all investigations. You must adhere to all regulatory standards applicable to an investigation which you perform.	D4	ensure that you have the valid consent of the patient for any diagnostic investigation (including imaging) before it is carried out. You must carry out investigation in the health interests of the patient and in a way that minimises the risks to them. You must base the investigation on clinical reasoning, following authoritative evidence-based guidelines and adhering to all regulatory standards.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

	New standard	D2	<p>find out the patient's goals for their care.</p> <p>Before commencing care, you must establish planned health outcomes of the care, using recognised outcome measures. You must agree with the patient (and record) how progress towards the planned health outcomes will be measured.</p>
	New standard	D13	<p>engage in evidence-based interventions that support prevention and health promotion, considering health inequalities, for the benefit of the patient and population health.</p>
	New standard	D14	<p>understand the risks and benefits to the patient before using any new technology and ensure that clinical care is safe and effective, whether it is provided face-to-face or remotely. You must obtain the valid consent of the patient.</p>
	New standard	D15	<p>ensure that in promoting or conducting research or using research in practice, you do so ethically and effectively.</p>

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle E			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
D1	not abuse the position of trust which you occupy as a professional. You must not cross sexual boundaries.	E1	recognise the power imbalances that come with being a healthcare professional. You must not abuse the position of power and trust which you occupy as a professional. You must not pursue or encourage improper financial, emotional or personal relationships. You must not cross any professional boundary: this includes sexual boundaries.
D3	explain the reason to the patient if there is a need for the patient to remove items of clothing for examination; if that needs to happen, you must offer the patient privacy to undress and the use of a gown.	E3	explain the reason to the patient and obtain and record valid consent if there is a clinical need for clothing to be removed. You must respect their right to privacy to undress and you must offer the use of a gown. You must always obtain a patient's consent if it becomes necessary during examination or treatment for an item of the patient's clothing to be adjusted.
E6	always obtain a patient's consent if it becomes necessary for the purposes of examination and treatment during care, for you to adjust and/or remove items of the patient's clothing.		
D4	consider the need, during the assessments and care, for another person to be present to act as chaperone; particularly if the assessment or care might be considered intimate or where the patient is a child or a vulnerable adult.	E4	consider the need for (or advisability of) another person to be present to act as a chaperone or advocate - for your own protection and that of the patient. You must, wherever possible, offer a chaperone if the clinical assessment or care might be considered intimate or where the patient is a child or a vulnerable adult, or where the patient requests one. You must record when you offer or use a chaperone or advocate.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle F			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
E1	share with the patient accurate, relevant and clear information to enable the patient to make informed decisions about their health needs and relevant care options. You must also take into consideration a patient's capacity to understand.	F1	give the patient necessary, accurate, relevant and clear information in a format that is accessible to them so they can make informed decisions about their health needs and care options. You must take reasonable steps to check that they understand the information given to them.
E1	share with the patient accurate, relevant and clear information to enable the patient to make informed decisions about their health needs and relevant care options. You must also take into consideration a patient's capacity to understand.	F2	give due regard to the capacity of the patient to give valid consent, considering that their capacity can change over time.
E2	obtain and record consent from a patient prior to starting their care and for the plan of care.	F4	obtain, and record, valid consent from a patient (or their valid authority) before: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commencing or amending assessment or care; • involving them in teaching or research; • making a recording of them; • disclosing identifiable information about them (unless there is another lawful basis to do so). Consent is a continuous process, and you must make ongoing checks that consent continues to be given.
E3	check with the patient that they continue to give their consent to assessments and care.		
E4	ensure the consent of a patient is voluntary and not under any form of pressure or undue influence.	F3	ensure the consent of the patient is voluntarily given, without pressure, or undue influence.
E5	seek parental consent first if a child is to be seen without someone else being present, unless the child is legally competent to make their own decisions.	F5	take particular care to obtain valid consent when seeing a child or vulnerable adult, considering if the patient is legally competent to give consent or requires the consent of a parent or valid authority.
E7		See Principle G	

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle G			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
F1	explore care options, risks and benefits with patients, encouraging them to ask questions. You must answer fully and honestly, bearing in mind patients are unlikely to possess clinical knowledge.	G2	communicate clinical information to the patient clearly, sensitively and effectively. You must use language that enhances the care of the patient, promotes their health literacy, and supports shared decision-making.
F2	have visible and easy-to-understand information on patient fees, charging policies and systems for making a complaint. These policies must include the patient's right to change their mind about their care, and, their right to refer any unresolved complaints to the GCC.	G3	have visible and easy to understand information for the patient on fees, charging policies and how to make a complaint. This information must include the patient's right to change their mind about their care and their right to refer any unresolved complaints to the GCC. You must respond promptly and appropriately to any complaints that arise. If you practise in Wales, you should consider also making information available in the Welsh language.
F5	listen to, be polite and considerate at all times with patients including regarding any complaint that a patient may have.		
F3	involve other healthcare professionals in discussions on a patient's care, with the patient's consent, if this means a patient's health needs will be met more effectively.	G4	communicate effectively with other professionals in the interest of meeting the patient's health and care needs and goals. You must only share information with the consent of the patient (unless there is another lawful basis to do so).
E7	obtain and record the express consent (i.e. orally or in writing) from the patient regarding sharing information from their patient record. You must not disclose personal information to third parties unless the patient has given their prior consent for this to happen – see also H2.		
H2	only disclose personal information without patient consent if required to do so by law.		
F4	take account of patient communication needs and preferences.	G1	take reasonable steps to understand and meet the language and communication needs and preferences of the patient, while maintaining their privacy.
	New standard	G6	when communicating online as a healthcare professional (including

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

			media sharing, social networking sites and user-generated content), do so responsibly. You must check that information is not misleading, and maintain professional boundaries and public confidence in the profession. Where you delegate this, the accountability sits with you.
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Principle H			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
F3	involve other healthcare professionals in discussions on a patient's care, with the patient's consent, if this means a patient's health needs will be met more effectively.	H1	collaborate appropriately and effectively with other health and care professionals, to enhance the integrated care of patients.
G6	not require anyone else to take on responsibilities for patient assessment and care where it would be beyond their level of knowledge, skills or experience.	H2	delegate tasks or duties only if safe and appropriate to do so. You must ensure that the person you delegate to is qualified, competent, and supervised and supported as necessary.
	New standard	H3	demonstrate effective team working and professional interpersonal relationships as required by your role. This includes contributing to the design, delivery, and improvement of healthcare services.
	New standard	H4	demonstrate leadership appropriate to a healthcare professional and to your role.
	New standard	H7	be prepared, as necessary, to contribute to mentoring, teaching, training and professional development of students and other colleagues. You must allow any person you employ, manage or lead to meet their regulatory requirements.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle I			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
G1	keep your knowledge and skills up to date, taking part in relevant and regular learning and professional development activities that aim to maintain and develop your competence and improve your performance and the quality of your work	12	regularly consider how to adapt or improve your practice considering new developments, technologies and evidence from research.
G1	keep your knowledge and skills up to date, taking part in relevant and regular learning and professional development activities that aim to maintain and develop your competence and improve your performance and the quality of your work.	14	maintain and develop your competence and performance, taking part in relevant and regular learning and professional development activities. You must be competent in all aspects of your professional work, including in any formal leadership, management, research or teaching role.
G2	maintain your knowledge to ensure it is up to date and accurate in terms of the law, regulations relevant to your work and GCC guidance.	See Principle C	
G3	recognise and work within the limits of your own knowledge, skills and competence.	15	recognise and work within the limits of your own knowledge, skills and competence. You must be clear with the patient about your limits.
G4	make clear the limits of your competence and knowledge to patients.		
G5	refer to, or seek expertise from, other chiropractors or healthcare professionals, when needed.	16	recognise the roles and expertise of other chiropractors and healthcare professionals. You must refer to them, or seek their expertise, when needed.
	New standard	11	engage in reflective practice, seeking feedback and analysing information about your practice and the care that you provide, in the interests of supporting continuous improvement.
	New standard	13	routinely seek and critically appraise emerging evidence. You must integrate findings of the best quality of evidence that is available at the time into your practice, to enhance the care of patients.

Standards of Proficiency compared between The Code (2016) and the Code of Professional Practice

Principle J			
Standards of Proficiency in The Code (2016)		Standards of Proficiency in the Code of Professional Practice	
H1	keep information about patients confidential and avoid improper disclosure of their personal information.	J1	adapt to advancing technology, including data sharing, media sharing and social media, to proactively protect the patient's personal information.
H2	only disclose personal information without patient consent if required to do so by law.	See Principle C	
H3	ensure your patient records are kept up to date, legible, attributable and truly representative of your interaction with each patient.	J2	be accountable for keeping patient records up to date, legible, and attributable. Your record must accurately represent each interaction with the patient. Retrospective amendments or additions to patient records must be identified clearly.
H7	give patients access to their personal health records as required by law.	See Principle C	

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This document is also available in Welsh.

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