



**medical technology**

ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND



**Code of Ethics 2021**

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# 1. Introduction

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Medical Technology Association of New Zealand (MTANZ) represents companies that develop, produce, manufacture, and market medical products, technologies and related services and therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage and alleviate health conditions and disabilities (“Medical Technology”) in order to enable patients to live longer and healthier lives. We are dedicated to advancing medical science; developing high quality, innovative Medical Technology; and improving patient care.

MTANZ is dedicated to the advancement of medical science, the improvement of patient care, and in particular the contributions that high quality, innovative Medical Technologies make toward achieving these goals.

MTANZ recognises the obligation to facilitate ethical interactions between Companies and those individuals or entities involved in the provision of healthcare services and/or items to patients, which purchase, lease, recommend, use, arrange for the purchase or lease of, or prescribe Companies’ Medical Technologies in New Zealand (“Healthcare Professionals”).

Medical Technologies occupy a special place in the healthcare system. They often require Companies to provide ‘hands-on’ education, supervision, and technical support to Healthcare Professionals. Company Representatives are often present in operating theatres to train and advise physicians in the proper use of new tools, products, and techniques.

The industry’s range and scope is vast. Medical Technologies sometimes serve as extensions of a surgeon’s hands. Others are inserted into the human body to replace or strengthen a body part. In other circumstances, they can be non-invasive reagents, instrumentation and/or software to aid in the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment decisions made by Healthcare Professionals. Some Medical Technologies work synergistically with other treatments; or are paired with other products that deploy devices in the safest and most effective manner. Many require technical support before, during and after deployment. The development and evolution of innovative Medical Technologies is a collaborative process between Companies and Healthcare Professionals which very often occurs outside the laboratory. Companies’ support of bona fide research, education and enhancement of professional skills improves patient safety and increases affordable access to the latest Medical Technologies.

All the above speaks to the unique relationship between Companies and Healthcare Professionals, one based on trust, integrity, and the primacy of patient well-being. This is given expression through the Code.

# The Value of Interactions with Healthcare Professionals

Healthcare Professionals' first and highest duty is to act in the best interests of their patients. Medical Technology Companies help Healthcare Professionals meet this duty through necessary, collaborative interactions.



Companies and Healthcare Professionals advance care and clinical science through *research, product development, and product testing* that results in new or improved, innovative Medical Technology



Companies *instruct, educate, and train* Healthcare Professionals on the safe and effective use of complex Medical Technology



Companies provide *product service and technical support* for Healthcare Professionals to help ensure the safe and effective use of Medical Technology



Companies support Healthcare Professionals' *scientific and medical research, as well as the enhancement of clinical skills and educational opportunities* to improve patient care



Companies promote *charitable giving and public awareness* of medical and health conditions through grants and donations in support of indigent care and patient education

## 2. Statement of Principles

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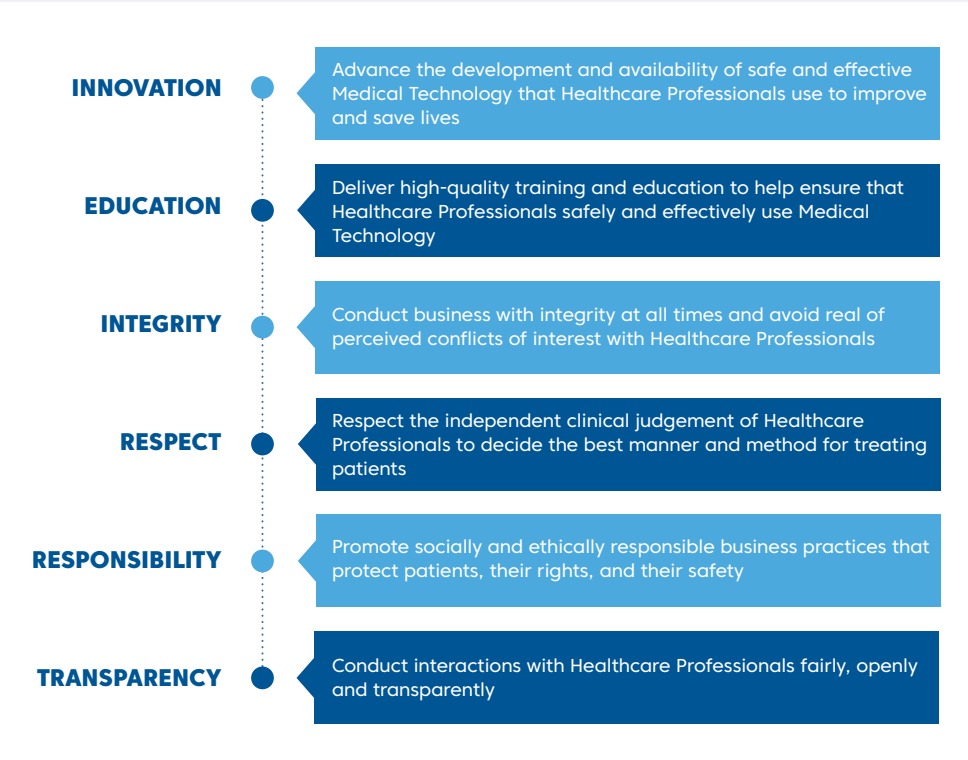
MTANZ recognises that ethical interactions between the medical device and diagnostics industry and healthcare professionals to advance Medical Technologies and ensure public confidence in the Medical Device and Diagnostics industry.

The purpose of this Code is to facilitate ethical interactions between companies that develop, manufacture, sell, market, or distribute Medical Technologies in New Zealand and those individuals and entities that purchase, lease, recommend, use, arrange for the purchase or lease of, or prescribe Companies' Medical Technologies in New Zealand.

- 2.1** Companies at all times should comply with provisions of all relevant legislative requirements.
- 2.2** Companies should not engage, directly or indirectly, or be knowingly concerned, complicit or otherwise involved in any unethical behaviour, misleading or deceptive conduct, or unfair or unconscionable practice.
- 2.3** Companies should place the highest priority on the safety and welfare of users of their Medical Technologies.
- 2.4** Companies should always respect ethical requirements and Codes of Ethics which apply to Healthcare Professionals and their business associates within the industry.
- 2.5** MTANZ will provide a framework and mechanisms for setting minimum standards of behaviour, educating Companies, monitoring industry development, providing self-regulation and interacting with governmental, professional and other industry bodies, associations and consumers.
- 2.6** Companies that are not members of an association, but which are engaged in the Industry are encouraged to accept and observe the Code.
- 2.7** MTANZ member companies take seriously their obligation to ensure the appropriate use and privacy of personal health information.
- 2.8** Companies should recognise their roles and responsibilities to meet their obligations stated in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) and commit to deliver on these obligations.
- 2.9** The Code is not intended:
  - a. to provide, nor shall it be construed as, legal advice; or
  - b. to take precedence over any relevant law or regulations to the extent that any provision of the Code conflicts with a law or regulation, that law or regulation will take precedence.

# 3. The Purpose of the MTANZ Code

The MTANZ Code of Ethics provides Medical Technology Companies with guidance on ethical interactions and relationships with Healthcare Professionals, based on the following cornerstone values:



*Companies should review all interactions with Healthcare Professionals in light of these values and should always avoid interactions designed to circumvent the Code.*

The Code may be silent on a specific interaction or may not address all aspects of an interaction with a Healthcare Professional but is intended to help companies make reasonable and appropriate decisions that align with the Code’s values. Companies and their employees and agents should always be mindful of their interactions and the perception of their interactions with Healthcare Professionals.

### 3.1 Background of the Code

The Code was introduced in 2005 to formalise ethical business practices for member companies and promote socially responsible conduct by all companies in the industry. It aims to promote high standards of integrity across the industry so that patients and Healthcare Professionals can have confidence in their dealings with the industry and its products. The Code provides a framework and mechanisms for setting standards of behaviour, educating companies in the agreed standards, monitoring industry activities, and providing self-regulation and disciplinary functions.

*The Code is regularly reviewed and updated to keep pace with changes in technology, business practice and community expectations.*

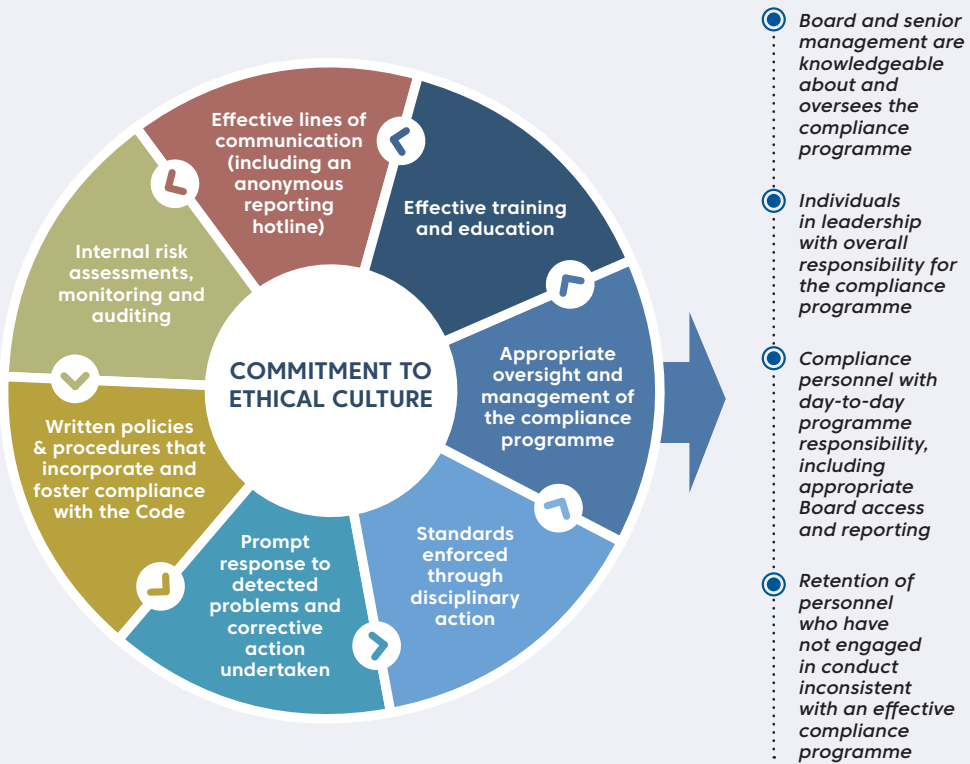
<b>Legal Principles</b>	The Code does not provide legal advice or create legal rights or obligations.
<b>Geographic Reach</b>	The Code applies to all company interactions with New Zealand Healthcare Professionals, whether occurring inside or outside New Zealand (such as at a conference or other event).
<b>Interactions with Healthcare Professionals</b>	The Code applies to a company's interactions and a company's employees' and agents' interactions with NZ Healthcare Professionals even if an employee or agent pays for the interaction himself/herself.
<b>Representatives</b>	A company adopting the Code is required to communicate the Code's provisions to its employees, agents, dealers, and distributors, with the expectation that they will adhere to the Code.
<b>Multiple Business Lines</b>	Companies with different business lines (for example, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, biologics, consumer items, and/or research-only products) may have other industry codes that apply to their businesses.
<b>Combination Products</b>	The Code applies to all interactions with New Zealand Healthcare Professionals related to combination products that include a Medical Technology component (for example, those that are both biologics and devices or drugs and devices), which may also be subject to other trade association codes.

### 3.2 Complying with the Code

The MTANZ Code does not replace any laws, regulations, or codes that may contain stricter requirements (for example, government ethics rules or marketing laws). The MTANZ Code requires Companies to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes.

Companies are strongly encouraged to adopt an effective ethics and compliance programme aimed at (1) promoting an organisational culture that encourages ethical practices and a commitment to comply with the law and (2) preventing and detecting inappropriate conduct.

#### ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME





### 3.3. Definitions of the Code

**Where a word is used with a capital letter at the beginning then it has the meaning given to it in the definitions clause.**

The MTANZ Code of Ethics can be found at the following web address: <http://mtanz.org.nz/>

**Advertisement** in relation to a Medical Technology, includes any statement, pictorial representation or design, however made, that is intended, whether directly or indirectly, to promote the use or supply of the Medical Technology.

**Advertising Code** means the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) in New Zealand, as amended or replaced from time to time.

**Association** means the Medical Technology Association of New Zealand (MTANZ).

**Authorised Representative** means the person nominated by a voting member of MTANZ under its constitution to represent and vote on behalf of the voting member.

**Board** means the board of directors of MTANZ.

**Breach** means a breach of any provision of the Code.

**Code** means the MTANZ Code of Ethics as amended from time to time.

**Code of Ethics Committee (CEC)** means the committee established in accordance with clause 7 to review and evaluate the Code and its administration. **Company** means any member of MTANZ, and any of the following, even if they are not members of MTANZ:

- a. Sponsors, in relation to any Medical Technology the subject of a licence requiring the Sponsor to comply with the Code;
- and –
- b. develop, produce, manufacture, and market medical products, technologies and related services and therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage and alleviate health conditions and disabilities in order to enable patients to live longer and healthier lives

**Company Representative** means any person or entity engaged in representing, acting for or advancing the interests of a Company in the New Zealand market pursuant to any agreement, arrangement or understanding between that person or entity and the Company, including a contract of employment or other employment arrangement, or any agency or consultancy arrangement.

**Competition** means any promotional activity as a result of which a person may win a prize or receive a reward, and includes a game that involves skill, chance or both.

**Complaint** means a complaint lodged with MTANZ under the Code.

**Complainant** means a person who lodges a Complaint with MTANZ under the Code.

**Complaints Secretary** means the person from MTANZ secretariat, as applicable for each Complaint, responsible for administration of a Complaint under the Code.

**Conference Organiser** means the organiser of a Third Party Educational Conference.

**Conference Sponsor** means a Professional association or Training Organisation with a genuine educational purpose or function, or a bona fide third party conference organiser which is independent of the Company.

**Consultant** means a Healthcare Professional who is engaged by a Company under a Consulting arrangement.

**Consulting Arrangement** means any relationship in which services are provided to a Company by a Healthcare Professional in exchange for remuneration.

**Consumer** means a person who may undergo a medical procedure or treatment in which a Medical Technology may be used or who may acquire a Medical Technology for use in relation to their own health, but does not include a Healthcare Professional.

**Consumer Representative** is a representative from a Health Consumer Organisation or industry patient support group.

**Educational Material** means any material or literature that provides information about a medical condition or Medical Technology and which does not contain specific Promotional claims.

**Entertainment** includes sporting events, musical and other entertainment.

**Faculty Member** means a Healthcare Professional who is a genuine speaker at a Third Party Educational Conference including as a participant in a panel of speakers.

**Health Consumer Organisation** means any organisation that represents the health interests of Consumers.

**Healthcare Professional** includes any individuals or entities involved in the provision of healthcare services and/or items to patients; which purchase, lease, recommend, use, arrange for the purchase or lease of, or prescribe Medical Technologies in New Zealand.

**Hospitality** means the provision of food and beverages.

**Inducement** means inappropriate influence.

**Industry** means that sector of the healthcare and medical industry that is engaged in the manufacture, import, distribution, and the maintenance, servicing or repair, of Medical Technology.

**Industry Complainant** means a Complainant acting in the capacity of participant in the industry.

**Institution** means an institution, corporation, government body, agency or committee and any other organisation involved in the purchase or other acquisition, supply or distribution, assessment, funding or recommendation of Medical Technologies (other than the Company's contracted distributors), the administration or regulation of Medical Technology or the provision of information and education in relation to Medical Technology.

**Laws and Regulations** means any law or regulation in force in New Zealand (as applicable to the relevant association) to which any act or omission the subject of the Code applies.

**Market Research** means the gathering of data on the scope or dimensions of a market and its components including the needs of customers in that market.

**Medical Device** has the meaning given to it in New Zealand Medicines Act 1981, as amended from time to time.

**Medical Technology** includes medical products, technologies and related services and therapies used to diagnose, treat, monitor, manage and alleviate health conditions and disabilities.

**Medical Technology Demonstration** means demonstration of the operational use of a product and includes discussions about product features and performance.

**MTANZ** means Medical Technology Association of New Zealand Inc.

**Non-Industry Complainant** means a Complainant that is not an Industry Complainant or a Consumer.

**Practitioner in Training** means a person training to become Healthcare Professional.

**Professional Association** means a clinical or other professional body representing Healthcare Professionals.

**Promotion**, in relation to a Medical Technology, means any activity that, directly

or indirectly, promotes or encourages the use, acquisition or other supply of the Medical Technology, by purchase, sale or otherwise, or discourages such use, acquisition, or supply of a competing Medical Technology, and includes the publication or dissemination of an advertisement.

**Regulator** means a government agency performing a statutory regulatory function.

**Resort Location** means a venue that promotes itself or may be reasonably perceived by the public to be a resort with an emphasis on leisure and recreation.

**Respondent** means, in relation to a Complaint, the Company whose conduct is the subject of the Complaint.

**Restricted Medical Device** means a Medical Device that is intended to be used or administered by a Healthcare Professional.

**Scheduled Medicine** has the meaning given in the New Zealand Medicines Act 1981.

**Sponsor** in relation to a therapeutic product, means the holder of a product licence in relation to that product.

**Third Party Educational Conference** means a conference sponsored or conducted by or on behalf of a Professional association that is:

- a. independent;
  - b. of an educational, scientific, or policymaking nature; and
  - c. for the genuine purpose of promoting scientific knowledge, medical advancement or the delivery of effective healthcare.
- Trade Display means a display of a Medical Technology or an advertisement or Educational Material about a Medical Technology.

**Training and Education** means the provision of Educational Material, product specification material, lectures and training sessions to Healthcare Professionals in relation to Medical Technologies.

**Training Organisation** means a hospital or other institution that provides training to healthcare professionals and/or practitioners in training.

**Virtual Events** are third-party or educational events that could consist of filming of presentations, panel discussions or live clinical procedures and their broadcasting (whether immediate or deferred) to an audience which is not physically in attendance.

## 4. Advertising and Promotion of Products

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An advertisement must:

- a. comply with the New Zealand Advertising Standards Authority Therapeutic Products Code of Ethics;
- b. comply with the Therapeutic Advertising Pre-vetting System (TAPS) when advertising direct to consumers;
- c. comply with New Zealand relevant Laws and Regulations; and
- d. reflect a high standard of social responsibility and conform to generally accepted standards of good taste.

## 5. Interaction with Healthcare Practitioner and other Professionals

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Ethical interactions between Companies and Healthcare Professionals enhance patient access to the safe and effective use of Medical Technologies by ensuring appropriate training of Healthcare Professionals by Companies. Ethical interactions also promote innovation and the ongoing development of advanced Medical Technologies through legitimate and transparent collaboration between Healthcare Professionals and Companies. Further, ethical interactions facilitate open and transparent business environments free from the high costs of corruption, enhancing the ability of Companies to participate in global markets. In all dealings with Healthcare Professionals a Company should undertake and encourage ethical business practices and socially responsible Industry conduct and should not use any inappropriate inducement or offer any personal benefit or advantage in order to promote or encourage the use of its products.

### 5.1 Company-sponsored Training and Education and Medical Technology demonstrations

Companies may provide training of Healthcare Professionals on product specific device deployment, use and application to facilitate the safe and effective use of medical technologies by Healthcare Professionals. Companies may also provide education to Healthcare Professionals on topics concerning or associated with the use of their Medical technologies. Training and Education programmes include “hands-on” training sessions, cadaver workshops, lectures and presentations. Training and Education should be conducted by qualified personnel, which may include sales personnel with appropriate technical expertise.

The following applies to Training and Education, and Medical Technology Demonstrations, conducted by or on behalf of a Company and provided to Healthcare Professionals:

- a. the programme should be conducted in a clinical, educational, conference, or other setting that is conducive to the effective transmission of knowledge.
- b. If the programme requires “hands on” training in medical procedures or Medical Technology.

Demonstration:

- (i) it should be held at a training facility, medical institution, laboratory, or other appropriate facility; and

- (ii) the training staff should have the proper qualifications and expertise to conduct such training.

- c. a Company may pay for reasonable travel and modest lodging costs incurred by attending Healthcare Professionals.

- d. a Company should not pay for the hospitality, travel, or other expenses of any person who does not have a genuine professional interest in the information being shared at the programme.

- e. In the interests of transparency and accountability:

- (i) Subject to paragraph (ii), the Company should enter into a simple written agreement with each Healthcare Professional attending the programme which sets out the nature of the programme and the services to be provided by or on behalf of the Company;

- (ii) Where the event is modest in nature, the requirement to enter into an agreement may be satisfied by the provision of a detailed programme or agenda outlining the services to be provided to the Healthcare Professional.

- f. The Company should not impose any requirement on any Healthcare Professional to purchase or cause to be purchased any Medical Technologies or other goods or services associated with the training, in consideration for attending the program.

- g. The Company should not provide to attending Healthcare Professionals any gifts, rewards or free products.

## 5.2 Third Party Educational Conferences General

Bona fide independent, educational, scientific or policy-making conferences promote scientific knowledge, medical advancement and assist in the delivery of effective health care. Companies may participate in and support a Third Party Conference in accordance with Clauses 5.2 to 5.4 inclusive, provided that the support is consistent with relevant guidelines established by the conference organizer and any accrediting body. Company support of third-party educational conferences should preserve the independence of medical education and should not be used as a means of inappropriate inducement.

## 5.3 Sponsorship or Grants for Third Party Educational Conferences

a. a Company may provide sponsorship or a grant to the Conference Sponsor to:

- (i) reduce conference costs;
- (ii) provide for attendance by a Healthcare Professional or a Practitioner in training; or
- (iii) provide a reasonable honorarium, travel, lodging, and Hospitality expenses for a Faculty Member.

b. a Company may provide sponsorship or a grant provided:

- (i) it is proportionate to the overall cost of the conference;
- (ii) the conference is primarily dedicated to promoting objective medical, scientific and educational activities and discourse;
- (iii) the Conference Sponsor selects the recipient of the sponsorship or grant, who may be a Faculty Member;
- (iv) the Conference Sponsor makes the arrangements, and pays for, the travel and accommodation of the recipient;
- (v) the Conference Sponsor is responsible for and controls the selection of programme content, Faculty Members, educational methods and materials;
- (vi) the sponsorship or grant:
  - (a) is not conditional on any obligation to or by the recipient;
  - (b) does not give rise to, or facilitate any breach of the Code;

(vii) Companies should assess the conference educational programme and delivery of it ensuring that the education is the main focus of the conference.

(viii) the Conference Sponsor and the Company enter into a written agreement specifying the nature and conditions of the sponsorship or grant; and

(IX) the agreement requires the Conference Sponsor to account to the Company for the use of the sponsorship or grant, without being required to disclose the identity of recipients.

## 5.4 Hospitality at Third Party Educational Conferences

a. a Company may provide funding to the Conference Organiser to support Hospitality at a Third Party Educational Conference provided the Conference Organiser and the Company enter into a written agreement:

(i) specifying the nature and conditions of the Hospitality; and

(ii) which requires the Conference Organiser to account to the Company for the use of the funding.

b. a company may provide Hospitality at a Third Party Educational Conferences provided the Hospitality is provided in a manner that does not interfere with attendance at conference functions.

c. all Hospitality at Third Party Educational Conferences funded by or supplied by a Company must comply with the provisions of Hospitality clause 5.7.

## 5.5 Company-Sponsored Symposia with Faculty Members

A Company may conduct a Company-sponsored symposium as part of a Third Party Educational Conference provided that:

a. the symposium uses a Faculty Member, a Consultant or an employee of the Company to speak at or facilitate the symposium;

b. any Hospitality complies with the provisions of Hospitality clause 5.7; and

c. a Company does not pay the costs of attendees to attend the symposium, other than those referred to in 5.5a.



## 5.6 Arrangements with Healthcare Professionals acting as Consultants

a. a Company may engage a Healthcare Professional to serve as a Consultant to provide valuable genuine consulting services, including research, participation on advisory boards, presentations at Company-sponsored training, and product collaboration, provided that such an engagement may take place only where a legitimate need and purpose for the services is identified in advance, and the Promotion of a Medical Technology to the Healthcare Professional is not a purpose for the engagement.

b. a Company may pay the Healthcare Professional reasonable compensation for performing services as a Consultant.

c. Consulting arrangements between a Company and a Consultant must comply with the following:

(i) the arrangement should be documented in writing;

(ii) between the Company and the Consultant, specifying all services to be provided and compensation to be paid;

(iii) the compensation paid to a Consultant should be consistent with fair market value for the services provided;

(iv) selection of the Consultant should be on the basis of the Consultant's qualifications and expertise in dealing with the subject matter of the engagement, and must not be on the basis of volume or value of business generated or potentially generated by the Consultant; be based on factors that preserve the objectivity of medical decision-making and avoid the potential for improper influence;

(v) when a Company contracts with a Consultant to conduct clinical research services there should be a written research protocol;

(vi) Consulting arrangements should only be entered into where a legitimate need for the services is identified in advance and documented;

(vii) the calculation of royalties payable to a Healthcare Professional in exchange for intellectual property arising from the Consulting arrangements should be based on factors that preserve the objectivity of medical decision-making and avoid the potential for improper influence;

(viii) the location and circumstances for any meetings between the Company and the Consultant should be appropriate to the subject matter of the

engagement and the meeting must be conducted in a clinical, educational, conference, or other setting that is conducive to the effective transmission of information;

(ix) Company-sponsored Hospitality that occurs in conjunction with a Consultant meeting or a meeting with a prospective consultant should be modest in value and subordinate in time and focus to the primary purpose of the meeting;

(x) the Company may pay for reasonable and actual expenses incurred by a Consultant in carrying out the engagement, including reasonable and actual travel, modest Hospitality and lodging costs in attending meetings with, or on behalf of, the Company.

## 5.7 Virtual Events

A Company may organise a virtual third-party or educational event that could consist of filming of presentations, panel discussions or live clinical procedures and their broadcasting (whether immediate or deferred) to an audience which is not physically in attendance. A company may organise a standalone, virtual training or product promotional event to healthcare professionals.

a. Any event should be relevant to the Healthcare Professional attendees and the detailed programme should be available in sufficient time prior to the event

b. All supporting promotional materials (e.g flyers, brochures, and website) are consistent with the scientific or promotional nature of the programme content and comply with existing Code requirements

c. No home delivery of meals will be permitted, for example through catering or food delivery services to the healthcare professionals' home during virtual events.

## 5.8 Market Research

A Company may conduct Market Research with a Healthcare Professional provided that:

a. the sole purpose is to collect data and the Market Research is not calculated to promote to and/or reward the Healthcare Professional;

- b. the Market Research study is clearly identified as such to the Healthcare Professional;
- c. any compensation is kept to a minimum and does not exceed a level commensurate with the work performed by or on behalf of the Healthcare Professional; and
- d. where the Market Research includes a Competition or allows for the provision of any prize, it complies with Clause 5.10.

## 5.9 Hospitality

A Company's business interactions with a Healthcare Professional may involve the presentation of scientific, educational, or commercial information. A Company may conduct such exchanges in conjunction with Hospitality as an occasional courtesy provided that the Hospitality:

- a. is incidental to the bona fide presentation of scientific, educational, or commercial information and provided in a manner that is conducive to the presentation of such information;
- b. does not include Entertainment;
- c. takes place in a setting that is conducive to bona fide scientific, educational, or business discussions and is not selected because of its leisure or recreational facilities;
- d. is modest in value;
- e. is limited to those who actually participate in the meeting; and
- f. is not provided to any other person who does not have a bona fide professional interest in the information shared in the meeting.

## 5.10 Gifts to Healthcare Professionals

Companies should not provide Healthcare Professionals with gifts, including gifts of cash, food, wine or spirits, gift baskets, gift cards/certificates or flowers. Companies may not provide Healthcare Professionals any type of branded or non-branded promotional items, even if the item is of minimal value and related to the Healthcare Professional's work or for the benefit of the patients. Companies should not provide, organise or pay for any recreational or entertainment activities for Healthcare Professionals, including (without limitation) sporting events, cultural or artistic activities, or leisure activities. It is

inappropriate to provide gifts or entertainment in the context of any type of interactions with Healthcare Professionals, including in connection with sales and promotional meetings, consulting services, third party educational conferences or product training and education.

a. a Company occasionally may provide a Healthcare Professional with an item that benefits patients or serves a genuine educational function for the Healthcare Professional provided that the item has a fair market value of less than \$100, except in the case of medical textbooks or anatomical models.

b. a Company may not give a Healthcare Professional any type of non-educational branded promotional item, even if the item is of minimal value and related to the Healthcare Professional's work or for the benefit of patients. This restriction does not apply to Medical Devices marketed only to Consumers.

c. a Company may not accept a gift from a Healthcare Professional which is beyond the level of what is reasonable and customary in the circumstances of the relationship.

d. a Company should ensure that sales of Medical Technology are made solely on the basis of efficacy, safety, quality, price and service and never on the basis of a Healthcare Professional receiving payments, gifts or Hospitality.

e. For the avoidance of doubt, this clause does not preclude the legitimate practice of providing to Healthcare Professionals appropriate samples of Medical Technologies for genuine training, educational or Medical Technology evaluation purposes.

## 5.11 Competitions for Healthcare Professionals

A Company may conduct a Competition for Healthcare Professionals that applies with the following limited provisions:

- a. the competition must be based entirely on medical or other specialist healthcare knowledge or the acquisition of that knowledge;
- b. Entry into the competition must not be dependent on ordering, recommending, using or prescribing of a medical device;
- c. the conduct of the Competition must comply in all respects with all relevant NZ Laws and Regulations;
- d. any prize awarded to the successful winner of the Competition must comply with Clause 5.10.

## 5.12 Research, Educational Grants and Charitable Donations

### 5.12.1 General

A Company may provide research and educational grants and charitable donations provided that the Company:

- a. adopts objective criteria for providing such grants and donations that do not take into account the volume or value of purchases made by, or anticipated from, the recipient;
- b. implements appropriate procedures to ensure that such grants and donations are not used as a condition of purchase of the Company's products; and
- c. ensures that all such grants and donations are appropriately documented.

### 15.12.2 Research Grants

A Company may provide research grants to support independent medical research with scientific merit provided that such activities have well-defined objectives and milestones (and subject to clause 5.6 where a Healthcare Professional is engaged by a Company to undertake research on its behalf).

### 15.12.3 Educational Grants

A Company may make an educational grant for the following purposes:

- a. advancement of medical education – a Company may make a grant to support the genuine medical education of Healthcare Professionals

and Practitioners in Training participating in programs which are charitable or have an academic affiliation;

b. advancement of Public Education – a Company may make grants for the purposes of supporting genuine education of Consumers or the public about important healthcare topics.

c. a Company should not make an educational grant directly to a Healthcare Professional or a Practitioner in training.

#### **15.12.4 Charitable Donations**

a. a Company may make monetary or Medical Technology donations for charitable purposes, such as supporting indigent care, patient education, public education, or the sponsorship of events where the proceeds are intended for charitable purposes. Donations should only be made to genuine charitable organisations or, in rare instances, to individuals engaged in genuine charitable activities for the support of a bona fide charitable mission.

b. a Company should not make any charitable donation or philanthropic gift for the purpose of inducing a Healthcare Professional to purchase, lease, recommend, use, or arrange for the purchase, lease or use of the Company's Medical Technology.

c. the Company should fully document every donation made by the Company.

#### **15.12.5 Fellowships**

A Company may grant funds to an organisation accredited by a Professional association to deliver specialty education to provide a fellowship for the specialty education of a Healthcare Professional or a Practitioner in Training.

## 6. Company Representatives

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### 6.1 General

a. a Company must:

(i) ensure that its Company Representatives are fully aware of the provisions of the Code; and

(ii) provide ongoing training to Company Representatives on compliance with the provisions of the Code.

b. a Company should ensure that its Company Representatives at all times:

(i) maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and professionalism;

(ii) conduct themselves in a manner that complies with the Code;

(iii) act in a manner that does not compromise, appear to compromise or appear likely to compromise the professional behaviour or independence of a Healthcare Professional; and

(iv) act in a manner that does not compromise, appear to compromise or appear likely to compromise patient care.

c. a Company should ensure that a Company Representative who attends procedures at the invitation of a Healthcare Professional complies with all relevant institutional requirements, standards, codes and all relevant Laws and Regulations.

### 6.2 Code Training

A Company should ensure that every Company Representative undertakes an education programme that complies with MTANZ guidelines. A Company should ensure that every Company Representative employed in a role which involves promotional activities on behalf of the Company undertakes an education programme on the Code of Practice approved by MTANZ:

a. within the first six months of employment in the role; and

b. as a refresher programme at no less frequency that once every three years.

# 7. Administration of the Code of Ethics

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## 7.1 Code of Ethics Committee

The Code of Ethics Committee (CEC) is established to supervise the administration of the Code and is responsible to the MTANZ Board.

## 7.2 Composition of CEC

CEC shall be made up of:

- a. a minimum of six members from MTANZ membership; and
- b. a representative of MTANZ.

## 7.3 Role of CEC

CEC is responsible for the review and evaluation of the Code and its administration. To achieve this, CEC must:

- a. conduct regular internal and external reviews of the Code in accordance with clause 7.5 to ensure it continues to reflect community, industry and regulatory standards and values;
- b. consult with key stakeholders if it is considered that more than minor amendments are required;
- c. submit all proposed amendments to the MTANZ Board for approval;
- d. publicise all amendments in accordance with clause 7.6;
- e. oversee the effective operation and administration of the complaints handling procedures;
- f. collate statistical data of complaints received and their outcomes; and
- g. conduct a regular review and analysis of complaints and industry issues they may raise and make recommendations to the Board.



## 7.4 CEC Procedures

CEC must operate in accordance with the following procedures:

- a. elect a Chair from within the group;
- b. CEC must meet at a minimum once per year. the Chair may request more frequent meetings on an as needs basis;
- c. decisions of CEC must be made by a majority vote of its members;
- d. a quorum of four MTANZ members must participate in each CEC meeting.

## 7.5 Reviews

- a. External reviews of the Code must be carried out once every five years or more frequently if so determined by CEC.
- b. External reviews may be conducted by:
  - (i) an independent, appropriately qualified and experienced, consultant; or;
  - (ii) a panel of independent, appropriate qualified and experienced persons.

For the purposes of conducting an internal review, CEC may seek comment or submissions from Companies and other relevant stakeholders.

## 7.6 Publicising the Code

- a. CEC should identify and recommend to the MTANZ Board the optimal means for the association to promote the Code to Companies, the industry, Healthcare Professionals, Regulators and other relevant stakeholders and participants in the healthcare industry.
- b. the association must ensure that the Code is available on the MTANZ website at all times and encourage Companies to reference and provide links to the Code on their own websites.
- c. the association must encourage Companies to promote the Code on a regular basis.

## 7.7 Reporting

Each year CEC should provide a written report on the administration of the Code for inclusion in the MTANZ Annual Report; MTANZ to include any Code complaints in the regular Board meeting papers.

## 8. Compliance Mechanisms

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- a. Companies should take all measures reasonably required to ensure compliance with the Code by Company Representatives. Companies should adopt effective compliance programs by issuing written policies and procedures, conducting training programs and implementing clear procedures, controls and enforcement mechanisms.
- b. Companies are encouraged to inform all customers, Institutions and Healthcare Professionals of the requirements of the Code.
- c. a Complaint regarding promotional activities by a Company or an interaction with a Healthcare Professional, should be dealt with company to company contact, in the first instance.;
- d. If, following intercompany dialogue, the complaint remains unresolved, a complainant may lodge a complaint with the MTANZ Code of Ethics Committee;
- e. the CEC committee should evaluate the complaint and make recommendations or action to the MTANZ Board;
- f. In support of a fair and transparent complaints system, anonymous Complaints are not accepted;
- g. notwithstanding the obligations on MTANZ to report on the outcome of Complaints as provided in the Code, all information about a Company, a Complainant, and the subject matter of a Complaint, must be kept confidential by MTANZ until all avenues of appeal are exhausted.
- h. A Company that adopts the Code is strongly encouraged to submit to MTANZ an annual certification stating that the Company has adopted the Code and has implemented an effective compliance programme.

## 9. Complaint Handling Procedures

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### 9.1 Complaints by Consumer or Non-industry Complainant

The following applies to a Complaint to be made by a Consumer or non-Industry Complainant.

- a. Before lodging a Complaint, the party wishing to complain is encouraged (but not required) to seek to resolve the issue the subject of the Complaint with the Company whose behaviour has given rise to the Complaint.
- b. For privacy purposes, and to avoid any disincentive for making a Complaint, the Complainant may apply to the MTANZ to have the Complainant's name withheld from the Respondent and from public release.

### 9.2 Complaints by an Industry Complainant

Before lodging a Complaint, an Industry Complainant should seek to resolve the issue the subject of the Complaint, directly with the Company whose behaviour has given rise to the Complaint. The Industry Complainant may not make a Complaint unless the parties have been unable to satisfactorily resolve the issue.

- a. The following applies to all Complaints. a Complaint should be in writing with supporting material and:
  - (i) state the nature of the conduct, state the provision of the Code alleged to have been breached and the reasons for asserting a breach has occurred;
  - (ii) where relevant, provide supporting scientific or other technical data;
- b. If the Complaint is brought by an Industry Complainant on the basis that the Company has not provided substantiation of a claim, the Complainant must provide evidence to support its allegations.
- c. MTANZ will acknowledge a complaint, whether concerning a member Company or a non-member Company member, in writing within seven working days of its receipt and deal with the complaint expeditiously.
- d. MTANZ should forward a copy of the Complaint to the Chief Executive Officer of the Respondent within seven working days of receiving the Complaint. The Respondent should respond in writing to MTANZ within 10 working days.

e. MTANZ should provide the Complainant with a copy of the Respondent's response and invite the Complainant to reply in writing within 10 working days. MTANZ should provide the Respondent with a copy of the Complainant's reply within 5 working days.

f. If a Complaint is upheld, the Respondent must reimburse MTANZ, as applicable, its secretariat costs and out-of-pocket expenses associated with the determination of the Complaint, unless the MTANZ Board determines otherwise.

Complainants are encouraged to first approach the company whose behaviour is complained of to attempt to address the behaviour. If the complainant is not satisfied that the behaviour has been addressed then a complaint may be lodged with MTANZ.

The Code requires industry participants to attempt to resolve issues before resorting to the complaints process. Non-industry complainants are also encouraged to raise issues with a company before lodging a complaint. However, as it might be more difficult for a non-industry person to raise a matter directly with a company (whether as a consumer, healthcare professional or other healthcare participant), the Code provides that a non-industry complainant may bring a complaint without first taking the step of contacting the company whose behaviour is complained of.

The Code provides for a mediation process which is more appropriate than a formal complaint process. It is open to the parties to a complaint to request mediation as the means to resolve the issue.

## 10. Sanctions (non monetary)

### Classification of Breaches

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Where a breach of the Code has been established, before determining any sanction, the MTANZ Board must first classify the severity of the breach, in accordance with the classification set out below.

**Minor Breach:** a breach of the Code that has no safety implications and will have no adverse effect on how Healthcare Professionals or the general public view the Medical Technology the subject of the Complaint, similar products or the industry.

**Moderate Breach:** a breach of the Code with no safety implications but which will adversely impact on the perceptions of Healthcare Professionals or the general public regarding the Medical Technology the subject of the Complaint, similar products or the industry.

**Severe Breach:** a breach of the Code that has safety implications or will have a major adverse impact on how Healthcare Professionals or the general public view the Medical Technology the subject of the Complaint, similar products or the industry.

**Repeat Breach:** when a Company commits the same or similar breach of the Code to a breach found against the Company within the preceding 24 months.

**Serial breach:** when a company breaches the Code, and that company has been found to have breached the code on not less than two previous occasions in the preceding 24 months.

#### 10.1 Available Sanctions and reporting

Where the MTANZ CEC committee has judged that the company has breached the Code it shall refer to the complaint to the MTANZ Board with any recommended sanctions or actions. The MTANZ Board may choose to apply one of the following sanctions:

- a. a requirement that the Company take immediate action to discontinue or modify any practice which is determined to constitute a breach of the Code, in which event the Company should confirm in writing to MTANZ that it has taken the required action within 10 working days of receipt of the decision;
- b. a requirement that the Company recall and destroy any offending material in which event the Company must confirm in writing to the MTANZ, within 10 working days of receipt of the decision, that it has taken the required action;

- c. Suspension or expulsion of the Company from MTANZ in a manner consistent with the MTANZ Constitution;
- d. Publication of the name of the company and the breach of the Code on the MTANZ website;
- e. Publication of the name of the company and the breach of the Code in the MTANZ Annual Report;
- f. notification of any unethical business behaviour to any private or public procurement agency.

# Appendix

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## Appendix 1

### **Complaints on advertisements directed to Consumers**

Complaints about advertising directed to Consumers must be directed to:

New Zealand Advertising Standards Authority  
PO Box 10 675,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 472 7852 or 0800 ADHELP (0800 234357) from New Zealand.

Email: [asa@asa.co.nz](mailto:asa@asa.co.nz)

Information on the procedure to make a complaint can be found at  
<http://www.asa.co.nz/Procedure.htm>

## Appendix 2

### **Complaints on advertisements to and interactions with healthcare professionals**

Complaints regarding advertisements directed to, and interactions with, Healthcare Professionals must be directed to:

New Zealand:

The Secretary,  
Advertising Standards Complaints Board  
PO Box 10-675,  
Wellington,  
New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 472 7852

Fax: +64 4 471 1785

Email: [asa@asa.co.nz](mailto:asa@asa.co.nz)



**medical technology**  
ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND

Medical Technology Association of New Zealand

PO Box 74116, Greenlane Central,  
Auckland 1546

Phone: +64 9 917 3645

Email: [admin@mtanz.org.nz](mailto:admin@mtanz.org.nz)

[www.mtanz.org.nz](http://www.mtanz.org.nz)

