



## Interventional Pain Services

### Mission Statement

The Mission of Interventional Pain Specialists (IPS) is to lead the community in providing safe, high quality, value oriented pain interventions and pain management services. We will conduct ourselves in all our relationships with honesty, respect and integrity. We pledge to deliver to each of our patients, comprehensive pain management services in a caring and compassionate manner. We will foster a supportive environment for all employees.

### **Ethical Principles of Interventional Pain Services**

#### Preamble

IPS recognizes the many facets and problems that pain patients experience. For this reason, IPS endorses and reaffirms the benefit of the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary commitment which professionals from a variety of disciplines can make to the field of pain management. The conduct of IPS staff shall be consistent with all applicable local, state and federal regulations, and with codes of conduct as established by each professional's primary discipline. Each IPS staff member is committed to increasing his or her knowledge of the mechanisms of pain and its respondent behavior. Every effort will be made to safeguard the health and welfare of patients who seek treatment with us.

IPS is a medical specialty group that employs physicians, nurses and psychologists practicing in the field of Pain Medicine. The management of pain is our fundamental goal. All IPS staff have an obligation to address acute and persistent pain. Adequate assessment and management of many types of pain states require an interdisciplinary, team-oriented approach; but we advocate that one physician has primary responsibility for coordination and continuity of care.

#### Professional Ethical Codes

IPS endorses the ethical codes of conduct for each of the professional groups involved in providing care to our patients. For our physicians, we endorse both the American Medical Association's (AMA) Principles of Medical Ethics, which focus on our primary obligation to our patients, and the AMA's Declaration of Professional Responsibility, which specifies the duties of physicians to humanity. The psychology staff adhere to the Code of Ethics for psychologists from the American Psychological Association. Our nursing staff complies with and follows the Ethical Guidelines for Nurses, as created by the American Nursing Association. Interventional Pain Services, as a whole, also supports and endorses the American Academy of Pain Medicine's "Ethics Charter," which is a complementary document developed to address the unique scope and breadth of the practice of Pain Medicine.

The ethical imperative to provide relief from pain requires all IPS staff to apply themselves toward achieving the best possible outcomes in the following areas:

- assessment of the pain sufferer as a whole person, including all relevant biological, social, psychological, and spiritual dimensions pertaining to etiology and impact of pain
- treatment of the person in pain with competence and compassion
- education of professional colleagues, patients, the public, and policy-makers on the principles and methods of Pain Medicine
- support of and/or participation in basic and clinical pain research
- advocacy to ensure access to pain care and its continuous improvement.



### **Education, Training and Competence**

IPS staff shall maintain high standards of professional competence. They shall recognize the limits of their skills and the scope of their licensure. They shall offer services consistent with the standards of their profession. IPS staff have an obligation to accurately represent and disclose their training, education, and experience to the public. IPS staff shall engage in continuing education. This will minimally include the necessary hours of relevant education in pain management and/or their primary discipline, as required by their specific licensing board and professional association. IPS staff recognize that the field of pain management is rapidly developing so shall be open to consider and evaluate new approaches and procedures for the management of pain. IPS staff shall refrain from procedures and treatments that may result in harm to a patient without first considering the alternatives to such therapies. IPS staff shall seek to employ treatments and services which may achieve the greatest benefit with the fewest associated risks whenever possible. IPS staff shall obtain consultations with other providers when indicated, and inform the patient of the likely risks inherent to the proposed approaches, procedures or treatments.

### **Responsibility**

The IPS staff shall be responsible to determine that standards are applied evenly and fairly to all individuals who receive services. Individuals who are employed by an institution, agency or clinic have the responsibility to be alert for institutional pressure which may be counter to the best interest of the patient and shall make every effort to improve those conditions. IPS staff provides thorough documentation and timely feedback to members of the team, employers, carriers and other interested parties in order to assure coordinated, managed care. All reports will be objective and based upon an independent professional opinion within the individual professional's expertise. IPS staff will provide only those services for which the professional is competent and qualified to perform. IPS staff will refrain from providing services which are counter to the ethical standards of their discipline or which would be a violation of standards established by applicable regulatory boards governing service to pain patients.

### **Confidentiality**

IPS staff are obligated to safeguard information obtained in the course of their involvement with their patients. Information acquired during the scope of practice may routinely be released only with the patient's written permission. In emergency situations when there exists a clear and imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of the patient or to others, or when such release is required by a court order or subpoena, a practitioner may release relevant medical information without the patient's written permission. Individuals who seek the services of IPS staff shall be advised that in some jurisdictions, insurance companies, managed care organizations and regulatory boards may have access to collected information, test results, and opinions. Patients have the privilege, to the extent that it is feasible and practical (and when there are no legal or clinical contraindications), to see their medical records at a mutually convenient time for the patient and the practitioner.

### **Business Procedures**

IPS staff will abide by all prevailing community standards. They will adhere to all local, state and federal laws regulating business practice. Competitive advertising must be honest, factual, and accurate. Such advertising must avoid making exaggerated claims. IPS staff shall not enter into arrangements in which fees are split or exchanged, or where a conflict of interest or undue influence about services rendered would exist. IPS staff shall engage in behavior that conforms to high standards of ethical, legal and moral behavior. IPS staff shall never engage in sexual contact with their patients.



### **Research**

IPS staff may engage in research concerning the management of pain. In doing so, they shall have the safety of their subjects as a priority. Investigations shall be consistent with the traditions and practices of the credentialed practitioner's discipline. Credit shall be given to all individuals who participate in a research study, but only those who actually participated in the design, study implementation, data analysis of the outcome or the manuscript preparation shall be listed as authors.

### **Professional Conduct by Specialty**

IPS staff are obligated to maintain their skill competency such that it conforms to the standards of conduct both to the individual's community, practice and discipline. The treatment of pain and the implementation of a patient's plan require that the therapeutic effort be interdisciplinary. IPS staff will conduct their professional behavior so that it facilitates the services of all team members for the maximum benefit of the patient.

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