



# Code of Conduct for Physical Therapists

This supplement has been compiled by the KNGF in collaboration with the Ethics Committee. It is intended as a further explanation of the rules of conduct within the Code of Conduct for Physical Therapists and should not be read separately.

## Introduction

The Code of Conduct for Physical therapists contains the rules of conduct that the Ethics Committee and therefore also the professional association, the KNGF, considers important for physical therapists. It describes practical values and norms of the profession of physical therapist. The Code of Conduct serves as a guideline for professional physical therapy conduct in daily practice, for physical therapy education and in (disciplinary) law.

The Code of Conduct contains 50 rules of conduct that have been presented to the KNGF board and finally to the General Meeting in November 2022.

Due to further developments, the KNGF provides further explanation of the Code of Conduct in this supplement. The explanation helps the physical therapist to further interpret the rules within the Code of Conduct. This document should therefore be read alongside the Code of Conduct and should not be used as a separate document. It provides an explanation or elaboration per rule, in case an explanation is necessary/ desired.

This supplemental document with further explanation of rules of conduct should be seen as a dynamic document and the content is not binding.

## Reading guide

This supplementary document to the Code of Conduct shows the categories as per Code of Conduct. If an explanation or elaboration is available, it is listed under the category and number of the rule from the Code of Conduct for Physical Therapists. A category is left blank if no explanation for a rule of conduct has been published.

To read the Code of Conduct, we refer you to the [Code of Conduct for Physical Therapists](#).

## Version control

Version 1.0	November 2022	Rule 12	KNGF Statement 'Grensoverschrijdend gedrag' (Dutch language) on transgressive and inappropriate behaviour
		Rule 13	Explanation at the General Meeting of 16 November 2022, about the amendment of this rule in KNGF Code of Conduct for Physical therapists 2022
Version 2.0 – English	September 2023		Version 1.0 was translated into the English language

## 1 Professional Practice

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Professional discipline and scope of practice
- 1.3 Patient record keeping

## 2. Relationship between physical therapist and patient

- 2.1 Privacy and intimacy
  - 12 Publication of the [Statement 'Grensoverschrijdend gedrag'](#) (Dutch language) on transgressive and inappropriate behaviour by the KNGF in Augustus 2022.
  - 13 If a treatment relationship is terminated due to affective feelings between a physical therapist and a patient, an appropriate period in which the physical therapist distances themselves from the patient should be observed before an affective or sexual relationship actually begins. A patient is in a dependency position in relation to the physical therapist, which has not disappeared immediately after terminating the treatment relationship. During this cooling-off period, the physical therapist distances themselves from the patient. Since the treatment relationship and magnitude of patient dependency will not be the same in each case, no clear guideline can be given for the duration of the cooling-off period. However, at the start of an affective or sexual relationship the former patient must decide and act completely voluntary and any form of dependency, which usually exists to a greater or lesser extent in a treatment relationship, must be no longer of influence (also read [in Dutch language]: Hoge Raad 18 February 1997, NJ 1997/485, Rechtbank Overijssel ECLI:NL:RBOVE:2016:4748, Regionaal Tuchtcollege Amsterdam ECLI:NL:TGZRAMS:2018:55 and Centraal Tuchtcollege voor de Gezondheidszorg Den Haag ECLI:NL:TGZCTG:2020:8 ).
- 2.2 Professional confidentiality
- 2.3 Informed consent
- 2.4 Right to review and copy patient record
- 2.5 Right to disposal, additions and corrections
- 2.6 Providing information to third parties
- 2.7 Electronic health information exchange system
- 2.8 Health care cost claims
- 2.9 Complaints
- 2.10 Patient cooperation
- 2.11 Locum physical therapist and trainee

## 3 Communication with colleagues and other healthcare providers

- 3.1 With colleagues
- 3.2 Communication to the patient's referrer or general practitioner
- 3.3 Locum

## 4 Operating a physical therapy practice

- 4.1 Good care
- 4.2 E-health
- 4.3 Reporting domestic violence and child abuse
- 4.4 Reporting obligation of data breach
- 4.5 Sharing Knowledge
- 4.6 Ancillary activities
- 4.7 Distinguishing and publicity
- 4.8 Gifts and donations

## 5 Scientific research