



Code of Ethics

- Every effort will be made to safeguard the health and welfare of patients
- Maintain skill competency such that it conforms to the standards of conduct both to the individual's community, practice, and discipline.
- Professional behavior will be such that it facilitates the services of all team members for the maximum benefit of the patient.

Responsibility:

- 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.
- Provide thorough documentation and timely feedback to members of the team, employers, carriers, and other interested parties to assure coordinated managed care. All reports will be objective and based upon an independent professional opinion within the credentialed individual's expertise.
- Provide only those services for which the individual is competent and qualified to perform.
- Refrain from providing services that 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

- Practitioners are obligated to safeguard information obtained during 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 credentialed practitioners 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.

Education, Training, and Competence

- Practitioners 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.
- Practitioners have an obligation to accurately represent and disclose their training, education, and experience to the public.
- Practitioners shall engage in continuing education.
- Practitioners shall refrain from procedures and treatments that may result in harm to a patient without first considering the alternatives to such therapies. Practitioners shall seek to employ treatments and services which may achieve the greatest benefit with the fewest associated risks whenever possible.
- Practitioners shall obtain consultations with other providers when indicated and inform the patient of the likely risks inherent to the proposed approaches, procedures, or treatments.

Business Procedures

- **Lonestar Rheumatology** will abide by all prevailing community standards. They will adhere to all local, state, and federal laws regulating the business practice. Competitive advertising must be honest, factual, and accurate. Such advertising must avoid making exaggerated claims.
- **Lonestar Rheumatology** shall not enter arrangements in which fees are split or exchanged, or where a conflict of interest or undue influence about services rendered would exist.
- **Lonestar Rheumatology** shall engage in behavior that conforms to high standards of ethical, legal, and moral behavior.

Research

- Practitioners 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 practitioner's discipline. Credit shall be given to all individuals who participate in a research study, but only those who participated in the design, study implementation, data analysis of the outcome, or the manuscript preparation shall be listed