



The Bowen Association UK Code of Conduct

APPENDIX 4 to the Constitution

(Last updated and effective from 31st July 2025)

INTRODUCTION

The Bowen Association UK (BAUK) was formed to give practitioners and students of the Bowen Technique a professional body to represent them to the public and other organisations, official or otherwise, in a coherent, effectively regulated manner.

Compliance with this Code of Conduct is mandatory for all members of the Bowen Association UK. Members also are subject to the Bowen Association's Complaint Investigation and Disciplinary Procedure.

Definitions of Alternative and Complementary Medicine:

Practitioners of genuinely 'Alternative' Medicine are trained with the same rigour as Registered Medical Practitioners. This enables them to diagnose and take full clinical charge of the patient, e.g. Osteopaths and Chiropractors.

'Complementary' Practitioners work with Registered Medical or Alternative Medicine practitioners wherever possible. They do not take responsibility for medical diagnosis, and accept that the doctor remains in clinical charge of a client, whether the client has come to them through a Registered/Alternative Medical Practitioner referral or not.

N.B. Clarity of these definitions and their applications in practice are crucial to client safety.

Regulations governing Doctors: Doctors are required to comply with the General Medical Council's ethical rules. Since 1991, they have been allowed to delegate patient care to therapists only if two conditions are met:

1. The Doctor remains in charge of the case, and
2. The Doctor is satisfied as to the competence of the practitioner.

Need for Regulation of Complementary Therapies: The legality of the practice of orthodox medicine in the UK is well established and Osteopaths and Chiropractors are licensed by Parliament.

Other Complementary therapists who offer treatment should be able to convince the Medical Profession, the Government and the Courts of Justice if sued of the efficacy and safety of their treatment.

Breaches of provisions of this Code and formal complaints directed at any BAUK

member, at any level, must be handled in accordance with the BAUK's Complaint Investigation and Disciplinary Procedure.

Code of Conduct for all Members of the Bowen Association UK

Relationship with the Client and fellow Members and Practitioners.

1. Practitioners shall have respect for the age, race, gender, sexuality, culture, beliefs, disability or social or economic status of any individual and must never seek to impose their beliefs on a client or other members and practitioners.

2. Practitioners shall at all times conduct themselves in an honourable and courteous manner and with due diligence in their relations with their clients and others.

3. The relationship between a practitioner and their client is a professional one. The client places trust in a practitioner's care, skill and integrity and it is the practitioner's duty to act with due diligence at all times and not to abuse this trust in any way.

4. Proper moral conduct must always be paramount in practitioners' relations with clients. They must behave with courtesy, respect, dignity, discretion and tact. Their attitude must be competent and sympathetic, hopeful and positive, thus encouraging an uplift in the client's mental outlook and belief in a progression towards good health practices.

They must not become involved in a romantic or sexual relationship with a client and must be diligent in guarding against any act, suggestion or statement that may be interpreted, mistakenly or otherwise, as having a sexual implication.

5. Practitioners must never claim to 'cure', nor guarantee any recovery.

6. On an initial consultation a practitioner should ask if a doctor has been consulted about the presenting condition. If a doctor's consultation has taken place, information on the diagnosis and treatment received may be asked for.

If during a session a practitioner believes that there is something which requires a medical view, it is advised they suggest the client consults a doctor. (Since it is legal to refuse medical treatment, no client can be forced to consult a doctor). *The advice must be recorded for the practitioner's protection.*

Practitioners must not countermand any instruction or prescription given by a doctor, nor advise for or against a particular course of medical treatment.

The client should sign, physically or electronically, all recorded information prior to commencement of treatment.

7. Before treatment practitioners must explain fully either in writing or verbally the procedures involved in the treatment including such matters as questionnaires, likely content and length of consultation, number of consultations, fees, the adjustment or removal, if appropriate, of clothing etc.

8. Practitioners must act with consideration concerning fees and justification for treatment. Practitioners should not be judgemental. Clients are entitled to refuse treatment, ignore advice and make their own decisions on health, lifestyle and money.

9. Practitioners, and all those who work with them, must not disclose (or allow to be disclosed) any information about a client (including the fact of their attendance) to any third party, including members of the client's own family, without the client's consent unless it is required by due process of the law or for the immediate protection of, or avoidance of, identifiable real risk to the client or a third party, in which case the practitioner is advised to obtain legal advice.

10. No third party, including assistants and members of the client's family, may be present during the course of a consultation with an adult client without their express consent. Practitioners working with severely disturbed clients, minors or those of the opposite sex must consider the need to safeguard themselves by having a third party present during a consultation. A second responsible adult should always be present if the client is a child under the age of 16. Whoever has parental responsibility should provide written consent on behalf of a child under the age of 16.

11. At the present time no complementary therapy is approved as medical aid under the law. It is a criminal offence for a parent or guardian not to seek medical aid for a child under the age of sixteen. The practitioner should secure a *signed and dated statement* from a parent or guardian who refuses to seek medical aid, as defined in the law.

Practitioner Awareness

12. Practitioners should ensure that they themselves are medically, physically and psychologically fit to practise.

13. Discretion must be used for the protection of the practitioner when carrying out private treatment with clients who are mentally unstable, addicted to drugs or alcohol, severely depressed, suicidal or hallucinating. Such clients must be treated only by a practitioner with the relevant competency. A practitioner must not treat a client in any case which exceeds their capacity, training and competence. Where appropriate, the practitioner must seek referral to a more qualified person.

14. Practitioners are forbidden to diagnose, perform tests on animals in any way or give advice following diagnosis by a registered veterinary surgeon or to countermand his instructions. Qualified animal practitioners must seek veterinary permission prior to the initial treatment of any animal.

15. Practitioners must not attend women in childbirth or treat them for ten (10) days thereafter unless they hold an appropriate qualification in midwifery.

16. Practitioners must not practise dentistry unless they hold an appropriate qualification.

17. Practitioners must not treat venereal disease as defined in the 1917 Act.

18. Practitioners must not use manipulation or vigorous massage unless they possess an appropriate qualification.

19. Practitioners must not prescribe remedies, herbs, supplements, oils etc unless their training and qualifications entitle them to do so.

20. All members of the BAUK are required to comply with all national and local legislation and to ensure that they are fully aware of laws such as the:

General Data Protection Regulation 2016

Data Protection Act 2018

The Data Protection (Changes and Information) Regulations 2018

Information Commissioner's Office

Cancer Act 1939

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

21. Notifiable Diseases

It is the responsibility of all Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP), including Osteopaths and Chiropractors, to report any notifiable disease to the UK Health Security Agency.

Complementary therapists are not RMPs.

Any practitioner who suspects a notifiable disease, either through presenting symptoms, worsening symptoms or their client not responding as expected to their Bowen sessions, should recommend the client contacts their GP for an urgent medical opinion, as in 6. above.

Complementary Therapists cannot diagnose any condition unless they also have a medical qualification with the requisite knowledge to do so, nor can they access the online system to report notifiable diseases.

Administration / Publicity

22. Practitioners must not use titles or descriptions to give the impression of medical, or other qualifications unless they possess them and must make it clear to their patients/clients that they are not doctors and do not purport to have their knowledge or skills.

23. Advertising must be dignified in tone and shall not contain testimonials or claim a cure or mention any disease. It shall be confined to drawing attention to the therapy available, the qualifications of the practitioner and the offer of a general service together with necessary details.

24. Practitioners must hold adequate Public Liability and Professional Indemnity cover when they practise. The insurance policy must include provision for employee liability if personnel are employed.

25. All Full members of BAUK must ensure their names and details are correct on the public register within the BAUK website. They must ensure their qualification, current membership and public liability certificates are displayed or readily available at their place of practise.

26. Practitioners must ensure they keep clear, comprehensive and dated records of their treatments and advice given. This is especially important for the defence of any negligence actions as well as for efficient and careful practise.

27. In determining whether or not any record of the nature of any treatment administered is reasonable, it shall be for the practitioner compiling the record to ensure that, on the basis of the client notes alone, the nature of the treatment given can be determined and also whether it was competently and reasonably undertaken.

28. All practitioners shall ensure that their working conditions are suitable for the practise of their therapies.

29. BAUK Member Association practitioners are bound by the BAUK Complaint Investigation and Disciplinary Procedure and they should provide clients with a contact name for use in the event of a complaint.