



BrokerWeb Risk Services Manawatu Branch



## **PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE PROGRAMME COLLEGE OF NURSES AOTEAROA (NZ) INC**

The Professional Indemnity Insurance Programme is available to all members of the College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc. The insurance policy is underwritten by NZI.

### **YOU ARE INSURED FOR**

Civil liability arising from an error while performing your professional services and the legal costs and expenses of defending claims against you. Importantly, this includes the costs of representing you at a legal or quasi legal process into whether any professional code of conduct has been breached, as well as complaints against you by a registration board and coronial enquiries etc. Any costs or damages awarded against you in any medical malpractice / negligence claims will be met under the policy, together with any other defence costs, irrespective of whether the claim against you is successful.

### **YOU ARE COVERED FOR**

\$1,000,000 per policy period for civil liability and \$100,000 for Nursing Council, HDC or similar complaints. There is NO excess for you to pay.

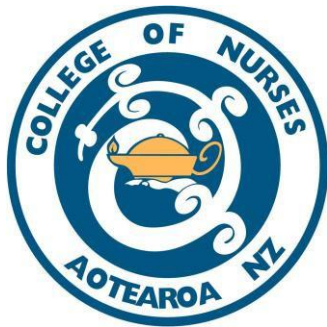
### ***IN THE EVENT OF A CLAIM OR COMPLAINT, OR IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THE COVER - PLEASE CONTACT***

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*For any urgent matters, you may also contact NZI Professional Risks' Claims  
direct*

NZI Professional Risks Claims Manager  
Private Bag 92130, Auckland  
T: 0800 NZI RISK (0800 694 7475)  
F: 09 969 6356

In addition, it is the expectation of the College of Nurses that members whose area of work or practice is not direct clinical practice will hold the appropriate or relevant qualifications. This applies to work such as use of complementary therapies, quality surveying or health promotion.



# COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES POLICY

The College of Nurses, Aotearoa (NZ) Inc is supportive of nurses using complementary therapies as part of their overall nursing practice in hospital or community settings.

## Definition

As Complementary Therapies is a widely used term with no commonly accepted definition the College of Nurses Aotearoa has adopted definitions used by the Cochrane Collaboration and the World Health Organisation. The Cochrane Collaboration and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) definition is:

*Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is a broad domain of healing resources that encompasses all health systems, modalities, and practices and their accompanying theories and beliefs, other than those intrinsic to the politically dominant health system of a particular society or culture in a given historical period. CAM includes all such practices and ideas self-defined by their users as preventing or treating illness or promoting health and well-being.*

And the World Health Organisation<sup>1</sup> defines it as follows:

*Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) refers to a broad set of health care practices that are not part of a country's own tradition and not integrated into the dominant health care system. Other terms sometimes used to describe these health care practices include 'natural medicine', 'non-conventional medicine' and 'holistic medicine'.*

## Conditions

Nurses' use of complementary therapies is subject to the following conditions:

1. The nurse holds a current recognised qualification relevant to the complementary therapy they are using and participates in activities to ensure their ongoing competency.
2. Complementary therapies used have a reasonable basis in evidence to support their efficacy or their documented lack of harm.
3. The nurse undertakes a comprehensive nursing / health assessment as a baseline for intervention and identification of any underlying health problem/s prior to administering any complementary therapy. If medical or other intervention is indicated this must be discussed with the client and subject to client's agreement referral made.
4. The client must agree to a nursing approach supported by complementary therapies and give written informed consent. The informed consent process must include explanation of the treatment / care plan including any benefits, risks, possible side effects and / or interactions with other remedies, medications or treatments the client is currently undergoing.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation (2004) *Guidelines on developing consumer information on proper use of traditional, complementary and alternative medicine (WHO)*, pg XIII

5. Collaboration with other health professionals involved in the care of the client should be undertaken, where indicated. However, a client who is able to provide competent informed consent can exercise his / her right to choose. In such situations, the nurse must ensure that the client has been fully informed and has understood the information that has been shared.
6. All assessments, decisions (nurse or clients) and advice must be comprehensively documented especially where the nurse has advised the client of the need for referral, or NOT to avoid medical investigations and / or treatment in favour of complementary treatment.
7. Some therapies impact adversely on conventional care and the nurse has a responsibility to know and advise on interactions with prescribed medications and other treatments. Where clients are ingesting purchased remedies (e.g. St Johns Wort or Horse Chestnut) this must be documented as the client's decision.

O'Conner, B *et al.* (1997) Defining and describing complementary and alternative medicine, *Alternative Therapies* 3(2), pgs 49-56. For further reference see also MACCAH (2004) *Complementary and alternative health care in New Zealand*.