

PREFACE

The American Electrology Association (AEA) is dedicated to promoting high standards of competency, integrity, and professionalism. As an international organization specific to the profession of electrology, the AEA recognizes a responsibility to identify mechanisms for the measurement of competent professional practice and to provide a means to establish accountability for practitioner performance to the public.

The American Electrology Association affirms electrology, the practice of permanent hair removal, is an allied health profession and the specialists who practice this profession are independent practitioners. Because independent practitioners practice in varied settings, it is our intention that the *Standards of Practice for Electrologists* will be applicable within a variety of practice environments.

The Standards contained in this document have been developed to be broad in scope, attainable, definitive, and relevant to the practice of electrology. The *Standards of Practice for Electrologists* contain uniform concepts necessary for quality practice while allowing appropriate flexibility for individual practitioners.

The practice of electrology includes: (1) health history assessment, (2) discussion with the patient regarding goals and expectations, (3) patient education, (4) development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of treatment plan, and (5) referral to other allied health professionals or appropriate health care providers when indicated.

Adherence to the *Standards of Practice for Electrologists* will enable practitioners to provide competent and responsible care. The Standards should also be used by electrology instructors to develop comprehensive curricula which will prepare graduates with necessary knowledge and skills. In addition, the Standards should be viewed as a foundation for planning continuing education offerings and for developing job descriptions, performance appraisals, and office policies and procedures.

State boards regulating the practice of electrology are encouraged to promulgate regulations that are consistent with these Standards. By establishing uniform expectations for entry level competencies, the Standards serve as a resource in the legislative process for unlicensed states. The Standards are disseminated to AEA members, state licensing boards/ departments, and professional associations.

Professional Standards must reflect the current state of professional practice. AEA will review and revise the *Standards of Practice for Electrologists* as necessary to incorporate changes in knowledge and technology.

To these ends, the Standards have been developed and are intended to serve as a basis for competent performance of professional obligations.

STANDARDS OF BASIC PRACTICE

Purpose: To describe basic knowledge and behavioral competencies necessary to perform the role functions of an entry-level professional electrologist.

STANDARD I.

The electrologist demonstrates professional skills, knowledge, and abilities consistent with current recognized and accepted professional standards of practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. Current accepted and recommended methods of electrology practice/treatment are used.

2. Electrologists use only needle electrode type epilation including electrolysis (direct current/DC), thermolysis (alternating current/AC), or a combination of both (superimposed or sequential blend).
3. Electrologists demonstrate knowledge and skill in the understanding, use, and maintenance of electrology instrumentation.
4. Infection Control Standards for the Practice of Electrology, as developed and recommended by the American Electrology Association, are used to protect the patient and the practitioner.
5. Flexibility and adaptability to changes in electrology theory and practice are demonstrated.

STANDARD II.

The electrologist assesses the health status of patients.

Measurement Criteria

1. During pre-treatment consultation, pertinent health data is compiled.
2. Relevant and accurate health history records are updated on an ongoing basis.
3. Contraindications to treatment are assessed on initial consultation and on an ongoing basis.
4. Physical conditions which may influence or affect the electrology procedure are identified and discussed with the patient.

STANDARD III.

The expectations and perspectives of the patient are considered in planning the treatment goals.

Measurement Criteria

1. The rights of patients are recognized and respected.
2. The preferences of the patient are considered.
3. Perceptions and anxieties are identified, discussed, and explained.
4. Patient self-esteem is reinforced.

STANDARD IV.

The electrologist provides the patient with information relevant to the electrology process.

Measurement Criteria

1. Discussion includes hair growth cycles, causes of hair growth, and adverse effects of temporary hair removal methods.
2. Infection control procedures and precautions are explained and are consistent with AEA Infection Control Standards for the Practice of Electrology.
3. Post-treatment skin responses and appropriate care are explained.
4. Office policies or procedures that affect the patient are discussed.

STANDARD V.

A treatment plan is developed based on comprehensive patient assessments and includes treatment intervention designed to be consistent with patient goals and desired outcomes.

Measurement Criteria

1. A patient centered approach is used.
2. Identified priorities serve as the focus of the treatment plan.

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR ELECTROLOGISTS

3. Treatment goals meet the needs of each patient.
4. Relevant data is used to develop and explain the treatment plan.

STANDARD VI.

The electrologist monitors the patient response to treatment and revises the treatment plan as needed.

Measurement Criteria

1. Treatments are discussed, recorded after each treatment, and evaluated with the patient on an ongoing basis.
2. Consultation between colleagues or appropriate health care providers is initiated when additional skills or knowledge is needed.
3. When indicated, referrals are made to appropriate healthcare providers.
4. Professional services are terminated when treatment is contraindicated, treatment no longer meets the patient's needs; the goals or expectations of the patient are not realistic or attainable; or, treatment goals have been achieved.

STANDARDS ON INFORMED CONSENT

Purpose: To offer patients the opportunity to make an autonomous informed decision regarding electrology treatment.

STANDARD I.

Electrologists provide accurate, current, and relevant information which enables the patient to make decisions regarding treatment.

Measurement Criteria

1. The treatment process is described.
2. Risks, side effects, and discomforts of the procedure are discussed.
3. Outcomes to be expected as a result of treatment are discussed.
4. Alternatives to the procedure are presented.
5. Answers are provided to the patient /client's questions.

STANDARD II.

A written, informed consent document is obtained from the patient prior to the onset of treatment.

Measurement Criteria

1. The consent form is signed by the patient or by a parent/guardian if the patient is a minor.
2. The patient has the right to withdraw consent prior to treatment or to terminate electrology services at will.

STANDARDS ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Purpose: To identify the basic tenets of professional, ethical, and moral conduct.

STANDARD I.

Electrologists respect the human dignity of each patient.

Measurement Criteria

1. The privacy of each patient is respected and protected.
2. Patient records and other personal information are considered privileged and confidential unless disclosure is mandated by federal or state statute, by court process, or consented to by the patient.
3. Professional relationships are established which respect and acknowledge the rights and diversity of others.

STANDARD II.

Electrologists comply with applicable federal, state, or local laws and

regulations which affect the practice of electrology.

Measurement Criteria

1. Electrologists perform only those professional services for which they are trained or licensed.
2. A safe practice environment is maintained which complies with applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations.
3. Electrologists support changes to laws and regulations which are inadequate or do not contribute to the health and welfare of the patient.

STANDARD III.

The electrologist's conduct reflects positively on the profession and its practitioners.

Measurement Criteria

1. Electrologists strive through their actions to enhance the reputation and integrity of the profession and its practitioners.
2. Electrologists contribute to the professional development of colleagues.
3. Self-evaluation of professional behaviors, practices, and services is used as a means to ensure quality in fulfilling professional obligations.

STANDARD IV.

Electrologists participate in activities that promote professional growth and development.

Measurement Criteria

1. Participation in appropriate continuing education activities is used to maintain and enhance knowledge and skills.
2. Networking opportunities are sought to provide a forum for discussion of common issues with other electrologists or appropriate health care providers.
3. Membership in professional organizations is encouraged.
4. Board certification is encouraged to demonstrate professional competency in electrology.

STANDARDS ON PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Purpose: To determine professional responsibilities and obligations that contribute to sound practice management.

STANDARD I.

Electrologists maintain an accurate accounting of business transactions and related matters.

Measurement Criteria

1. Complete and accurate business and financial records are maintained in compliance with federal, state, and local tax laws.

STANDARD II.

Electrologists secure and maintain appropriate professional liability insurance coverage.

STANDARD III.

Electrologists maintain the reliability and efficacy of equipment, instruments, products and supplies.

Measurement Criteria

1. Shelf life and integrity are considered in the maintenance and use of instruments and products.
2. Products and equipment are used as directed by the manufacturer and only for the intended purpose.

3. Sharps, hazardous chemicals, poisons, or other potentially dangerous materials or waste are disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, or local laws and regulations. AEA Infection Control Standards are followed in the absence of governmental laws and regulations.
4. Records are maintained which verify efficacy of sterilization techniques and equipment.

STANDARD IV.

Electrologists discuss all potential fees or other charges with the patient prior to the onset of professional services.

STANDARDS ON USE OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Purpose: To ensure that electrologists demonstrate knowledge and skill in the understanding, use, and maintenance of electrology related electrical equipment and instrumentation.

STANDARD I.

Electrologists use and maintain electrical equipment and instrumentation in a manner conducive to patient safety.

Measurement Criteria

1. Electrical equipment and instrumentation is used in accordance with the manufacturer's directions, specifications, and requirements.
2. Electrology epilators are used for the purpose for which the manufacturer intended and for which the electrologist is trained or licensed.
3. Factors which may contribute to equipment malfunction are recognized.
4. Equipment malfunctions are identified promptly.
5. Service is on a preventive basis and as needed.
6. Instrumentation is serviced by the manufacturer or other qualified personnel.

STANDARDS ON MARKETING

Purpose: To describe basic concepts which may be used to measure advertising/solicitation conduct, and to provide a mechanism for consumer confidence.

STANDARD I.

Electrologists use advertising/solicitation methods consistent with ethical and professional values and which enable the public to make informed choices.

Measurement Criteria

1. Electrologists are truthful regarding current professional qualifications, affiliations, and honors received in verbal and written advertising.
2. Advertising/solicitation accurately describes electrology services.
3. Patients are not deceptively or falsely solicited.
4. An electrologist does not deceptively or falsely disparage colleagues or their work.
5. Advertising/solicitation conforms to applicable federal, state, and local laws.
6. Statements, suggestions, or pictures which are misleading to the public are not included in professional advertising.
7. Testimonials which do not represent the current opinion of the endorser are not used.
8. Objective claims regarding performance, safety, efficacy,

or results are based on recent scientific or other unbiased data.

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