

OCI Health & Wellness Ministry Guidelines

OCI supports the mission and the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist church and seeks to promote its work through medical missionary evangelism—executed with integrity, excellence, transparency, caring, and respect.

OCI recognizes that through inspiration and science, God—the Creator and Savior—has provided a wealth of counsel regarding health and health evangelism. However, the world is in the midst of a great controversy between Christ and Satan, which has affected all aspects of human life, including health practices and the treatment of illness.

With this in mind, OCI seeks to promote adherence to God’s principles of health and healing among its affiliated ministries, recognizing and rejoicing that as an international organization, a great diversity of thought and details in practice exist regarding health and the treatment of disease. OCI upholds medical practices that are rational and soundly based on the principles of physiology and basic health sciences, while avoiding those practices rooted in non-Christian philosophies and beliefs.

OCI believes in promoting a healthful lifestyle for the purpose of preventing and reversing the chronic diseases of modern society. This is aided by current medical knowledge and the use of physiological and scientific natural remedies. Healthful practices such as pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, and trust in divine power are among God’s approved remedies. The intelligent use of herbs and clinically indicated pharmacological medications, and the skillful practice of surgery are among the means that God has put at our disposal to promote and restore health.

Considering all of the above, OCI member ministries agree to practice the following guiding principles when providing health and wellness services.

Guiding Principles

1. Health and wellness ministries should be run by faithful Seventh-day Adventist members.
2. The foundation of all prevention, diagnosis, and treatments should be based on the following criteria:
 - a. Biblical principles and their expansion in the Spirit of Prophecy should be taken as the primary basis of healthcare decisions.
 - b. Secondly, a sound understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, and other basic health sciences should help to guide all health and wellness services.
 - c. Thirdly, evidence-based methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and maintenance of health should be utilized as far as possible.
 - d. Fourthly, medical care should be in harmony with the local health regulations—as long as it does not conflict with the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. OCI believes that it is not ethical for its members to use titles like physician, doctor, or nurse if they do not have the appropriate certification and training.

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5132 Layton Lane
Apison, TN 37302
United States

p. 423 236 5600
f. 423 236 5650

www.outpostcenters.org
info@outpostcenters.org

3. Modalities that do not fit into the above categories may be further broken down into two levels:
 - a. **Practices that are not acceptable under any circumstances**
These include, but are not limited to: Energy alignments and forces, acupuncture, hypnotherapy, iridology, reflexology, magnetism, yoga, tai chi, reiki, homeopathy, cranial sacral therapy, exclusively eating raw foods for a prolonged period of time, pendulum diagnostics, live blood analysis and other similar blood analysis, colonics as repetitive/primary therapy, urine therapy, Bach's flowers, etc.
 - b. **Practices that may be used sparingly or with caution**
These include untested herbal treatments, unproven diets, and current treatment modalities still undergoing research.
4. Protocol for pursuing experimental tests include:
 - a. Inform patients/clients that the suggested treatment modality is still experimental or it's efficacy has not been proven and obtain written consent from the patient or client before implementing it.
 - b. Educate patients / clients in regard to the reasons why such treatment modality is being offered (results from research, anecdotal experiences, etc). Such modalities should not be contrary to the Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, and known physiological and health sciences' principles.
 - c. Keep detailed records and develop a database to evaluate results.

See more detailed information and footnotes on the OCI website under "Membership."

Ministry Agreement

As an OCI member ministry, we support and are in harmony with the health and wellness principles listed above.

Ministry Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____