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**Complementary Health Professionals (CHP)**

**Official Statement on the Sale and/or Promotion of MLM companies' essential oils**

This Statement has been created as specific advice for our complementary therapist members who might consider working as a representative for a Multi-level Marketing Company selling essential oils or other health products and is intended to be helpful in giving information on the limitations and restrictions of professional practice.

1. The CHP Code of Conduct (Item 3 of the General Statement) clearly states that members should only *"recommend the use of particular products or services only on the basis of clinical judgment and not commercial gain".* As a result, only members who are qualified Aromatherapists or Essential Oil Practitioners are permitted to give clinical advice on the external use of essential oils. This is further reiterated in Item 4 of the General Statement where it states that therapists must "*recognise and work within the limits of their knowledge, skills and experience"*

2. At no point can a member of CHP give advice on the internal use of essential oils as the aromatherapy and essential oil training in the UK does not advocate or include training in this area. The UK Aromatherapy Profession strongly advises against internal ingestion of essential oils as it is considered dangerous. Any member of CHP who does give such advice is not covered by insurance and cannot be supported by CHP in the event of a complaint or serious adverse effect and medical malpractice claim. Section 2.3 and 2.7 of the Code of Conduct applies. Additionally, Section 2.14 states in regard to commercial transactions that *"CHP members who supply to patient/clients goods of any description shall ensure that such goods are likely to be beneficial to the patient/client".* This especially applies to the internal use of essential oils, which shall not be recommended unless the member is a qualified medical herbalist or naturopath with pharmacology training.

There is compelling evidence to confirm that internal use of essentials oils could be detrimental to health and current professional training excludes this practice.

3. Section 7 of the CHP Code of Conduct states, "*CHP members shall at all times avoid conduct which may undermine public confidence in their profession or bring the profession into disrepute, whether or not such conduct is directly concerned with professional practice".* As the UK Aromatherapy profession strongly advises against the internal use of essential oils, any CHP member found to advocate such practice will be removed from membership so as not to bring the association into disrepute.