



Code of Ethics of the European Association of Music and Imagery (EAMI)

This Code of Ethics of the European Association of Music and Imagery (EAMI) is based on the Ethical Code of the European Music Therapy Confederation (EMTC).¹

Introduction

This Code of Ethics (EAMI) serves to protect clients against unethical practices and to guide GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors in their professional behaviors. Members of EAMI commit themselves to respecting this Code of Ethics, which is regularly adapted to the social and legal development of the GIM profession.

GIM is a generic term for different methods such as the original method developed by Helen Bonny (The Bonny Method), short GIM, modified GIM and other individual and group Music and Imagery methods (MI).²

GIM therapists and GIM trainees, who use the GIM methods under supervision with clients, practice with social responsibility and in accordance with the legal frameworks within their own country and the EU and their national profession's code of conduct. They are responsible for their own professional and ethical conduct, the therapeutic task, as well as the people with whom they enter into a therapeutic relationship.

GIM holds potential for exploring the depths of consciousness within the human psyche and bringing forth material that can lead to personal transformation and wholeness on a profound level. Because of its potential GIM must be honored with the highest respect, particularly because it may involve an expanded, non-ordinary state of consciousness, which invites clients to become vulnerable.

Those persons trained in GIM must adhere to the highest ideals of integrity and responsibility when providing services to clients, training or teaching students, conducting research, and presenting the method to the public.

¹ © EMTC Israel May 2000, revised June 2005.

² See 'The spectrum of GIM' in the Training Standards of EAMI.



1. Scope

1.1. The EAMI Code of Ethics complies with the EMTC Code of Ethics.

1.2. GIM therapists, GIM trainers and GIM trainees must sign the acceptance and knowledge of this Code of Ethics to be part of the EAMI and respect this Code in GIM treatment and its adaptations.

2. Goal

2.1. The main objective of the Code of Ethics is to guide members in their professional behavior and to:

- a) protect clients from harm resulting from unethical behavior
- b) ensure that the well-being of clients is a top priority in all circumstances
- c) respect the dignity and integrity of human beings

2.2. This code of Ethics is regulated by principles common to all professionals: respect for the person, protection of human rights, sense of responsibility, honesty, sincerity with clients, prudence in the application of the treatment and its techniques, professional competence and development of skills in the application of the clinical intervention.

3. Duties

3.1. GIM therapists and the GIM trainees act according to the quality standards defined by the EAMI, which form the framework of their professional activity.

3.2. GIM therapists and GIM trainees fulfill the relevant legal and regulatory requirements, be they European or national.

3.3. GIM therapists do not participate in any official or unofficial industrial action contrary to:

- a) protection of clients from harm resulting from unethical behavior
- b) ensuring that the well-being of clients is a top priority in all circumstances
- c) respect for the dignity and integrity of human beings

3.4. GIM therapists as well as GIM trainees develop an ongoing effort to update their professional competence in accordance with the Continuing Profession Development (CPD) guidelines. She/he gives an account of her/his efforts at the request of the Board or the Ethics Committee.



4. Obligations

4.1. GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors must be aware of the dependency inherent in the therapeutic relationship. Under no circumstances, they may use any therapeutic relationship for their own personal interests, e.g. sexual, emotional, social, religious, economic or ideological.

4.2. GIM therapists and GIM trainees work on the basis of an explicit agreement with the clients and/or their parents and/or their guardians. This agreement in form of a written/oral contract contains:

- a) extent and probable duration of the treatment
- b) fee (if any)
- c) confidentiality
- d) in the case of minors, the statutory limits of secrecy laid down in the safeguarding guidelines within each institution and overarching country regulations

4.3. GIM therapists and GIM trainees do not treat clients whose specific treatment needs exceed their level of competence. This relates to cases where the GIM therapists or trainees may be required to use techniques beyond their level of training or professional competence.

4.4. GIM therapists and GIM trainees treat only referred clients or clients who have visited the therapist of their own accord. GIM therapists and trainees respect the clients' autonomy and personal decisions within the therapy process and do not make misleading claims about the likely outcome of therapy.

4.5. GIM therapists and GIM supervisors supervising trainees are responsible for the mental and physical well-being and safety of clients during the therapy session.

4.6. GIM therapists and GIM trainees should not restrict the freedom of the client if the client wants to move to another therapist after having processed the reason(s) for leaving.

4.7. GIM therapists and GIM trainees shall not offer professional services to a person receiving therapy from another EAMI registered GIM therapist, except by agreement with that therapist, or after termination of the client's relationship with the respective therapist.

4.8. GIM therapists and GIM trainees shall neither actively solicit nor initiate therapy with a client who is already in therapy, without the expressed consent of the client's present therapist.

4.9. GIM therapists and GIM trainees should seek professional advice/help when she/he perceives that health problems or personal problems could deteriorate her/his professional competence.



5. Responsibilities

5.1. The individual or group therapy of GIM trainees should not be performed by a person who is, or has been, associated with the theoretical instruction, supervision, or internship of that student.

5.2. GIM trainers or GIM supervisors shall not delegate clinical responsibility to students or supervisees without adequate supervision.

5.3 GIM therapists, GIM trainers or intern responsible for a GIM trainee who have serious concerns about the ethical behavior of a GIM student/intern, must inform that GIM trainee/intern and also the appropriate authorities.

5.4. Anyone who has serious concerns about the ethical behavior of a GIM trainer or a GIM supervisor, must inform the appropriate authorities.

5.5. GIM therapists should be aware of, and not exploit the vulnerability and suggestibility of persons in a non-ordinary state of consciousness.

6. Confidentiality and privacy

6.1. GIM therapists and GIM trainees treat the information received during a client's treatment in confidence according to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Special cases:

- a) general information and data, which are absolutely necessary for the coordination of the treatment of clients may be made available to the involved professional participants, who are bounded by the same rules of confidentiality and data protection as the therapist
- b) information and data for educational purposes may be used with informed consent from the client/guardian
- c) unidentified information and data may be used for lectures, presentations, case studies, research projects and publications, with the informed consent from the client/guardian
- d) in the case of minors, in accordance with the statutory injunctions, a court order may be required to provide information and data relevant to the protection of the child
- e) in supervision professional secrecy is to be guarded with particular vigilance

6.2. GIM therapists and GIM trainees maintain in strict confidence all client information, advising clients of the limits of confidentiality, and only waiving confidentiality when:

- a) there is imminent danger to the client or others, or
- b) the member is subpoenaed by the judicial system



7. Research

7.1. Any GIM research that directly or indirectly involves clients, will maintain the legal framework of the research and obtain approval from the ethical committees and relevant authorities in the countries involved.

7.2. Intellectual property is respected. The contribution of collaborators shall be clearly acknowledged in any presentation or publication.

8. Professional Relations

8.1. GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors shall strive for good and mutually supportive working relationships with colleagues.

8.2. GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors shall refrain from disparaging remarks about colleagues, and in cases of conflict shall seek a mutually acceptable solution.

8.3. GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors shall refrain from damaging the professional reputation or practice of others.

9. Equal opportunities

9.1. Insofar as it lies within the GIM therapists', GIM trainees' and GIM supervisors' discretion, patients/clients shall have equal rights of access to assessment and treatment regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or any form of disability not relevant to the advisability or otherwise of treatment.

9.2. Insofar as it lies within the GIM therapists', GIM trainees' and GIM supervisors' discretion, candidates for training, prospective supervisees, applicants for professional EAMI recognition or research funding shall not be discriminated against on grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or any form of disability which does not affect competence.



10. Sanctions

10.1. The undersigned GIM therapist and GIM trainee recognize that the EAMI Board is committed to investigating any reported violations of its Code of Ethics and sanctioning malpractice of the affected members if necessary. The Board may transfer this task to the EAMI's Ethics Committee.

10.2. If required by clients, GIM therapists, GIM trainees, GIM supervisors or the Ethics Committee, all parties are committed to accepting a complaint procedure according to the guidelines of the EAMI.

10.3. GIM therapists, GIM trainees and GIM supervisors acknowledge that EAMI or its affiliates have the obligation to monitor the implementation and compliance with the above standards.

11. Other provisions

11.1. This Code of Ethics was approved by the Board of EAMI on December 2, 2019.