

# *Le Rire Médecin*

The Rire Médecin is composed of a team of artists. Working in close collaboration with medical care workers, it creates regular performances for hospitalized children.

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

In order to maintain the quality and the professionalism of their "work\*" -- without limiting the creativity of the artist, it is necessary to formulate in a code of ethics the principles of Le Rire Médecin. Thus, any participation in the activities of Le Rire Médecin requires knowledge, acceptance and application of the fundamental principles expressed in this code.

\* (The word "work" signifies the activities of the clowns in the hospital.)

### **Article 1**

The artist who works in the hospital is a professional who has been hired and paid by Le Rire Médecin. He is trained and skilled in the performing arts and is experienced in this field. Le Rire Médecin provides training for working in a hospital in order for the artist to better understand and respect this environment and to assist him in adapting his skills.

### **Article 2**

Inside the hospital, the artist will perform no function that is outside the boundaries of his artistic activities. The artist is present in the hospital to help children and their families cope with hospitalization. His work reveals that humor and fantasy can become part of hospital life. The artist must be aware that the purpose of his work is to improve the well-being not only of the children, but also their families and the medical care workers. The artist always proceeds with respect for the work of the medical teams and care workers.

### **Article 3**

The artist never works alone at the hospital. He works as part of a duet and is always accompanied by a partner.

### **Article 4**

The artist is responsible for his actions inside the hospital. The artist bases his work on respect for the dignity, the personality and the privacy of the child and his family. The artist maintains the same professional integrity regardless of the patient's gender, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, traditions, family situation, social status, education, illness, or any feelings he may have about that person. He will abstain from any and all remarks that could be inappropriate, even if his opinion is solicited. He will take care not to make any allusion to his own background, traditions, religious faith or political beliefs that could be harmful.

### **Article 5**

The artist will respect the privacy of patients and their families and maintain professional discretion and confidentiality notwithstanding appropriate intercommunication with other medical care workers. Confidential information includes anything that has been confided, but also what one has seen, read, heard, or

### **Article 5 (Continued)**

understood concerning the patients' state of health. The artist will also not disclose the patients' identities or their medical records. Discretion is mandatory in all locations: inside as well as outside the hospital (elevators, dressing or locker rooms, and public places).

### **Article 6**

No matter what the request, the artist will not enter into a relationship with the patient or his family outside of the artist's professional activities. He must never become the friend or confidante of the patient or family. In case of repeated solicitations on the part of the family, the artist must speak to a supervisor on the medical care team.

### **Article 7**

To guarantee the quality of his work, the artist will maintain and perfect his artistic skills (clown techniques) as well as his theoretical knowledge (various pathologies, how children cope with pain, medical vocabulary, child development, etc.).

### **Article 8**

The artist is always vigilant concerning the patient's safety. Patients must not be endangered by the artist's activity, his props, or his movements.

### **Article 9**

The artist respects the rules and regulations concerning hygiene and security specific to each ward in the hospital.

### **Article 10**

The artist never takes sides concerning controversies within the hospital, complaints about service, or problems regarding personnel or management.

### **Article 11**

In his capacity as a Rire Médecin worker, the artist will not accept any gratuities for his work and may not participate in any promotional activity or any commercial venture.

Copyright in Paris on February 13, 1995  
Reproduction forbidden without permission from LE RIRE MÉDECIN. Reprinted by The Hospital Clown Newsletter with permission of Le Rire Medecin, Paris France.