

CARING CLOWN CODE OF ETHICS
(Drafted by Karen Baxter, January 2012)
On behalf of the WCA Caring Clown Committee

1. As a caring clown I will strive to 'create joy in the moment.' I will expect nothing from my audience in return.
2. I will conduct myself in a respectful, sensitive, gentle manner at all times. I will not interfere with staff or impose myself on facility population. I will be mindful of the individual needs of patients and/or residents.
3. I will always be respectful of a patient or resident's personal space and seek permission to enter it.
4. I will apply my makeup in a soft, professional manner and refrain from using fragrance. My costume will be clean, pressed and not interfere with facility equipment.
5. While 'in clown' I will abide by the facilities' rules and regulations for volunteers. I will seek directives from staff in charge. I will be knowledgeable about facility policies and procedures because I have completed the orientation process for volunteers.
6. When I commit my 'clown' and time to a facility or facilities, I will do my utmost to uphold my commitment and volunteer on a regularly scheduled basis.
7. I will neither drink alcoholic beverages nor smoke before or during a visit. If I must eat or drink during a visit I will use discretion.
8. I will strive to continually educate myself as a caring clown and contribute to the education of others.
9. Whether 'in clown' or as a civilian, I will always do my utmost to uphold a 'caring clown' demeanour – an open heart, a listening ear and a sensitive nature.

"The greatest GIFT a caring clown can share is the GIFT OF SELF. Sometimes this gift is offered most effectively in simple presence, in loving silence or in sharing a faith journey when and if appropriate." (Chris Montross)