# What is ethical and effective marketing?

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### [ </ ] I have no potential conflict of interest to report

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## Guidelines for advertising a regulated health service

#### 4.1 False, misleading or deceptive advertising

133 (1) A person must not advertise a regulated health service, or a business that provides a regulated health service, in a way that—

(a) is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to be misleading or deceptive

Advertisers must not make false, misleading or deceptive claims in their advertising. To avoid being misleading and deceptive when advertising, advertisers should aim for the following:

- sell your professional services on their merits
- be honest about what you do and say in relation to your business practices
- be able to identify when published material falls under the definition of advertising
- be able to regularly check and maintain compliance of all your advertising
- look at the overall impression of your advertising.<sup>5</sup> Consider who the audience is, what the advertisement
  is likely to say or mean to them, and how easy it is for your audience to navigate and understand your
  advertising.

Advertising may be false, misleading or deceptive when it:

- misleads, either directly or by implication through the use of emphasis, comparison, contrast or omission
- provides partial information and/or omits important details
- uses scientific information that is inaccurate, unbalanced, not easily understood by the public, or does not clearly identify researchers, sponsors and the academic publication in which the results appeared
- makes statements about the effectiveness of the treatment that are not supported by acceptable evidence
- makes unqualified claims about the effectiveness of treatment by listing health conditions that a treatment or service can 'assist with' or 'treat'
- suggests a practitioner is a registered health practitioner or holds specialist registration, qualifications or an endorsement when they do not, by using a title and/or other means
- minimises, underplays or under-represents the risk or potential risk associated with a treatment or procedure.
- compares health outcomes, regulated health professions or practitioners or prices without complete information
- makes claims about providing a superior regulated health service.

#### It is an offence to:

- Use language or images that mislead
- Unreasonable expectation of benefits of treatment
- Encourage health service that is not clinically indicated
- Claims not supported by evidence

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Advertising is anything that promotes you or your practice or service

- Website
- Signage
- Brochures
- Print, radio, television

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#### But also.....

- Social media posts
- Business cards
- Email signatures
- Letterheads
- Professional notices

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#### Claims about skills

- Can't claim you are the best or one of the best in your specialty
- Avoid comparisons between yourself and other healthcare providers

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#### Testimonials

- You cannot use testimonials about clinical aspects of your care
- Unedited, nonclinical testimonials are acceptable

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Photographs and images

- Beware of before and after images
- Real patients that have undergone the procedure advertised
- Consent

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#### Social media

- Can't repost compliments
- Don't encourage positive reviews
- Turn off comments?

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Rewards and inducements problematic

- Gift vouchers
- Discounts for referrals

Discounts for treatment are allowed as long as full cost of treatment is advertised and T and C's are clearly identified

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You are responsible

- Check prior to publication
- Regular review

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Advertising breaches can be costly

- AHPRA gives opportunity to correct
- Persistent and repeated breaches prosecuted
- Penalties up to \$60000 for individuals and \$120000 for companies

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Step 1: Understand your target audience



Step 2: Build your practice's website



Step 3: Implement social media and targeted advertising campaigns

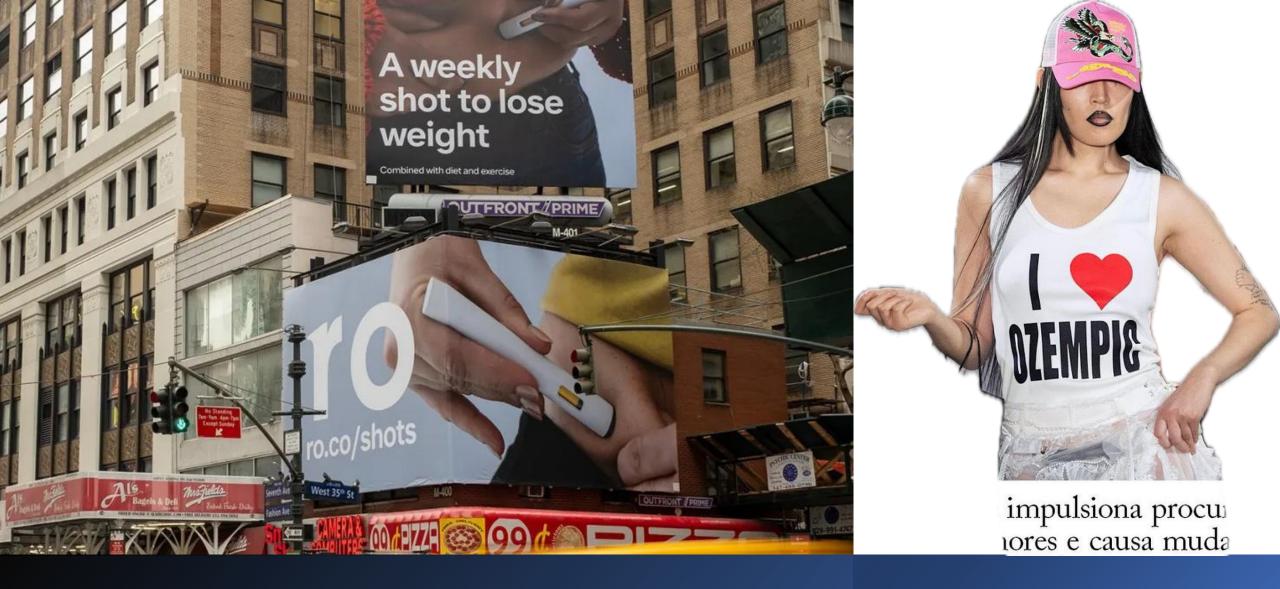


#### Step 4: Create engaging and informative content



### Step 5: Live events





### Thank you