

CODE OF ETHICS

This Code of Ethics sets out the values, standards, and responsibilities of a naturopathic doctor. It applies to all regulated members.

The naturopathic doctor's purpose

As a naturopathic doctor, in addition to practices outlined the *Health Professions Act, Sched. 14, P.3,* I use individual care and public education to:

- diagnose, treat, and prevent disease
- promote well being
- restore, maintain, and optimize health

Principles of naturopathic medicine

I practice the art, science, and spirit of the profession to the best of my ability by following these principles:

- 1. First, do no harm—Primum non nocere
 - Provide the most effective health care with the least risk.
- 2. Self-healing power of nature—Vis medicatrix naturae

Recognize, respect, and promote the body's inherent power to heal itself.

- 3. Treat the causes—Tolle causum
 - Strive to diagnose and remove the causes of illness rather than eliminate or suppress symptoms.
- 4. Doctor as teacher—Docere
 - Educate patients, inspire rational hope, and encourage self-responsibility for health.
- **5.** Treat the whole person—*Tolle totum*

Take into account all the influences on health for each person I treat.

- 6. Health promotion, the best prevention—*Praevenire*
 - Promote health as a way to prevent disease for individuals, and local and global communities.

Responsibilities to the patient

To behave ethically, I:

- 1. practice with integrity.
- 2. do not take physical, emotional, or financial advantage of patients.

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- 3. maintain professional competence.
- 4. strive for excellence by evaluating my strengths and weaknesses, and continuing to learn.
- 5. recognize my professional limitations and recommend a patient see another health care professional, or get a second opinion, if necessary or if the patient requests it.

In behaving competently, I:

6. comply with all governing legislation, standards of practice, policies, bylaws and guidelines approved by the CNDA Council.

When treating the patient, I:

- 7. show respect and dignity, regardless of the individual's health condition, personal attributes, origin, or disability. I do not discriminate based on age, sex, race, religion, economic or social status, or sexual orientation while treating the patient.
- 8. clearly communicate the treatment plan and agree that a patient may accept or reject any of my recommendations.
- 9. only recommend diagnostic procedures and treatments I believe are necessary and beneficial for the well-being of the patient. I communicate to the patient what they need to know to make informed decisions about diagnostic procedures and treatments.
- 10. disclose contents and potential adverse effects of products I recommend.
- 11. comply with all applicable privacy and consent laws and protect patients' right to privacy. I only disclose information with consent of the patient or where authorized by law without consent.
- 12. make patients aware of my legal responsibilities to a third party such as an employer or insurance agent before examining them.
- 13. provide a patient the information necessary to claim any entitled benefits when the patient requests it.
- 14. am considerate of and cooperate with the patient's approved advocates.
- 15. may refuse to accept a patient, except in an emergency or as required by law. However, I may not refuse treatment for any of the reasons in item 6 of this list.

In managing my relationships to patients, I:

- 16. ensure care is available to patients in my absence, if possible.
- 17. continue to treat patients until they find another suitable health care provider or no longer need treatment.
- 18. may withdraw patient care if I notify the patient in writing of my intention, and with a timeline that allows the patient's care to continue. However, I may terminate care immediately if the patient poses a safety risk to myself, office staff, or other patients.

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19. inform the patient if I have moral or religious reasons for not recommending a specific treatment, however I may not withhold information about the existence of a treatment because it conflicts with my moral or religious beliefs. I also must not promote my own moral or religious beliefs when interacting with a patient.

In emergencies or special situations, I:

- 20. provide assistance to an individual who needs urgent care, including calling emergency services
- 21. provide treatment that is within my level of competence and that I believe to be the patient's best interest when the patient is unable to give consent and a patient's advocate is unavailable.
- 22. cooperate with emergency personnel.

Responsibilities to the profession

When representing the profession, I:

- 1. recognize that the profession demands integrity and dedication.
- 2. strive to participate in national, provincial, and local professional activities to advance standards of care, body of knowledge, and public awareness.
- 3. recognize and continue to merit the privilege of self-regulation the profession allows.
- 4. behave with integrity when dealing with the public and other members of the profession.
- 5. recognize my responsibility to give the profession's general opinions when interpreting scientific knowledge to the public.
- 6. make it clear if I express an opinion that differs from the profession's general opinion and do not differ from the profession's general opinion as a way to enhance my reputation.

When collaborating with other health care providers, I:

- 7. share all relevant information available with the patient's consent in acc<mark>ordance with</mark> relevant privacy legislation.
- 8. clearly indicate to the patient the collaborative treatment plan.
- 9. when receiving a referral, do not interfere with the existing relationship between the patient and the referring health care provider.

In my professional conduct, I:

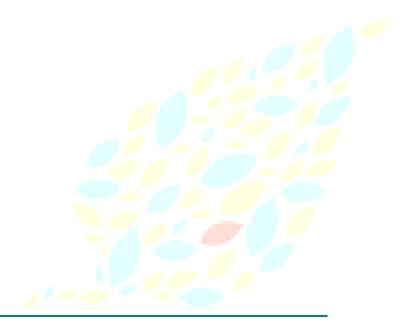
- 10. only enter contracts that maintain professional integrity.
- 11. only offer a contract to a colleague with fair terms and conditions.
- 12. build a professional reputation based on ability and integrity, not on unsubstantiated claims.

13. only advertise services or make announcements as outlined by the College.

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- 14. am honest when advocating a product that I may financially benefit from.
- 15. obtain approval from the applicable research ethics board in Alberta before beginning clinical research involving humans.



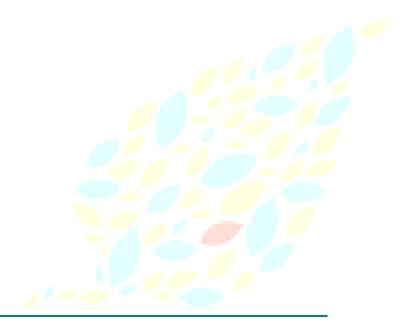
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Responsibilities to society

To meet my responsibilities to society, I:

- 1. strive to improve the standards of medical care and promote health and safety for the individual, the public, and the global community.
- 2. recognize the responsibility as a witness to assist the court in arriving at a just decision.
- 3. report colleagues or other health care providers whose general conduct, character, or competence appears unbecoming or deficient.



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