

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 causam***
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.
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.
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 their own moral or religious beliefs when interacting with 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 accordance with 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.
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.

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.

