

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Code of Ethics and Conflicts of Interest should establish general principles to guide registrants in meeting their duties to the public and to the profession, and in avoiding conflicts of interest.

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Code of Ethics and standards of practice

- 101 (1) Board members and officers of the college must at all times conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the public interest and the ethical standards of the profession and any standards of conduct for board members and officers of the college established by the board under section 19 (1) (k) of the Act.
- (2) Registrants must at all times conduct their practice in a manner that complies with the standards of practice and the Code of Ethics or any other practice or ethical standards applicable to the profession.

Definitions

1. In these bylaws:
- (a) "standard of practice" means a statement, published by the board under section 19 (1) (k) of the Act, setting out the minimum standard, or minimum standards, for practising the profession or a specified aspect of practice and which reflect the essential knowledge, skills and abilities registrants are expected to have in order to perform or provide the services of a naturopathic physician in a safe, competent and professional manner, along with any related limits or conditions that must be observed or met to ensure registrants do not practise in an incompetent manner.

Health Professions Act

Bylaws for college

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- (1) A board may, by bylaw for its college, do the following:
- (k) establish standards, limits or conditions for the practice of the designated health profession by registrants;

The authority for establishing the Code of Ethics is found in s. 19(1)(l) of the Health Professions Act. Pursuant to section 19(1.1) of the Act, it is not necessary to establish these standards in bylaws, but colleges who choose to establish standards other than in the bylaws should ensure that appropriate measures are taken to document and publish them so that they are available to both the profession and the public. The Model Bylaws continue to provide an example of inclusion of standards in the bylaws.

The Code of Ethics for each profession will vary to some extent according to the nature of the services being provided and whether members of the profession generally practise as employees or in private practice. Some of the areas that should be included in the Code of Ethics include the duty to maintain patient confidentiality, the duty not to withdraw services to a patient except in the appropriate circumstances, the duty not to discriminate, the duty to practise with integrity and other general duties to clients, to the profession and to the college. Colleges may wish to consider the Codes of Ethics of other professions, including the Canadian Nurses Association "Code of Ethics for Nursing", 1991 and the Canadian Medical Association "Code of Ethics", 1996. For a discussion of the duty of the board and committee members to avoid conflicts of interest, please refer to page vi of these Guidelines.

1. Code of Ethics

- (1) Registrants must act with integrity, honesty, respect and fairness in all dealings with clients, the board and other registrants.
- (2) Registrants, in rendering a professional service, must not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, disability or age.
- (3) Registrants must comply with the *Health Professions Act*, the _____ Regulation and the bylaws of the college, as well as any other laws applicable to the practice of the profession.
- (4) Registrants must at all times, in both their professional and private affairs, conduct themselves in a manner that is honourable and conducive to public respect for the profession, the college and its registrants.
- (5) Registrants must not provide any advice or treatment for which the member does not possess the necessary degree of training, skill, knowledge and experience to provide the advice or treatment in a safe manner, or for which there is no reasonable prospect of benefit for the client.
- (6) Registrants must not perform any aspect of practice if their judgment is impaired by alcohol, drugs or other reason.
- (7) Registrants must ensure that clients are properly informed about the potential benefits and risks and effectiveness of any treatment before such treatment is provided, unless the condition of the client makes it impossible to do so and the need for consent is otherwise addressed.
- (8) Registrants must take appropriate steps to advise a client of other health profession services where the registrant believes or ought reasonably to believe that it is in the best interests of the patient to do so.
- (9) Registrants must maintain complete and accurate patient records.
- (10) Registrants must respond promptly to all communication from the college where a response is requested or otherwise required.

2. Conflicts of Interest

- (1) Registrants, board members, and officers must ensure that they avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest or to an appearance of conflict of interest.
- (2) A conflict of interest is deemed to exist in any situation where a registrant, board member or officer has personal interests in a matter that may be reasonably seen to influence their professional advice and conduct
 - (a) in the case of a board member, in relation to a client, or
 - (b) in the case of a board member or officer, in relation to the college or its registrants.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), "personal interests" includes, but is not limited to financial, professional, family and other personal relationships, and includes those situations in which a family member or associate of the registrant has a significant interest in a matter.
- (4) If a registrant discovers that he or she is in a conflict of interest situation, he or she must take immediate steps to remove the conflict of interest.
- (5) If a board member or officer discovers that he or she is in a conflict of interest