



American Naturopathic Association

The oldest and original Naturopathic organization since 1919

1930 18th St, NW, Ste B2, #2461, Washington DC 20009 USA

□ POSITION PAPER □

CODE OF ETHICS

ANA Naturopathic doctors shall abide by the following code of ethics:

1. **Calling.** The *only* calling of a Doctor of Naturopathy is to improve the patient's health and wellbeing. A Doctor of Naturopathy shall seek to employ methods of case analysis and therapy that are consistent with naturopathic medical philosophy and the rational principles of practice, reflecting the doctor's training and experience. The Doctor of Naturopathy must at all times follow the six tenets of the profession, elucidated elsewhere.
2. **Standards.** A Doctor of Naturopathy shall attend to professional tasks and responsibilities to the best of the doctor's ability, and refrain from engaging in any behavior that will detract from his or her ability to engage in the competent and effective practice of Naturopathy. A Doctor of Naturopathy shall not represent himself or herself to patients or the public in an untruthful, misleading, or deceptive manner; and shall not engage in advertising that is false or deceptive.
3. **Propriety.** A Doctor of Naturopathy shall not engage in sexual relations with a patient unless that patient has been released from care for at least one year. The termination of the physician-patient relationship shall be in writing, and the patient shall understand that the physician-patient relationship has ended.
4. **Privacy.** A Doctor of Naturopathy shall maintain patient privacy and confidentiality just as in the conventional medical world.
5. **Competence.** A Doctor of Naturopathy shall recognize and exercise professional judgment as to the limits of his or her qualifications, making referrals as appropriate and seeking the counsel of more expert voices when appropriate. A Doctor of Naturopathy shall maintain competence and proficiency in the Arts of Healing, pursuing advanced education and training as needed to continue to expand the quality of services to the public.
6. **Discrimination.** A Doctor of Naturopathy is free to decide whether or not to provide naturopathic medical care to a particular person, unless confronted with a medical emergency;

provided that the Doctor of Naturopathy shall not refuse his or her best care if other reasonable options are not available. If a Doctor of Naturopathy justifiably desires to end the Doctor of Naturopathy-patient relationship, and if continued medical care is appropriate, the Doctor of Naturopathy shall document a formal referral to an appropriate health care provider.

7. Interaction. In the spirit of the naturopathic tenet *Docere*, a Doctor of Naturopathy must not only communicate clearly with a patient, but also educate the patient and communicate relevant information in terms the patient can understand, providing adequate opportunity for questions. A Doctor of Naturopathy shall transfer a patient's records to another health care provider at the request of the patient, in accordance with appropriate and applicable legal guidelines, in a reasonable and timely fashion, and at reasonable cost.

8. Improper Conduct. A Doctor of Naturopathy shall not exert influence over a patient to undertake any action that is contrary to the patient's best interest, nor to implement services with profit as a primary motivation.