



Code of Ethics

The Homeopathic Nurses Association considers the following principles to be guides to the ethical practice of homeopathy, and to be morally binding on all homeopaths/members.

Ideals

The homeopath's high and only calling is to restore the sick to health-to heal, as it is termed-as defined by Samuel Hahnemann in the Organon.

Interactions with Patients/Clients

Conduct the homeopathic practice with vigilance and integrity, freedom from prejudice, treating all patients/clients with respect and dignity. Make every appropriate effort to be available and accessible to ill patients/clients requiring assistance. Never guarantee a cure, by spoken word or in writing.

Assist patients/clients in weighing the possible benefits and risks of other (non-homeopathic) types of treatment, helping them to consider conventional diagnostic procedures, routine screening tests and therapies-acknowledging the usefulness of such procedures at appropriate times, even for those who may wish to avoid conventional treatment.

Render assistance to patients/clients in emergency situations, to the greatest extent permitted by circumstances.

Homeopaths shall encourage their patients/clients to take increasing responsibility for their own healing and learning as and where appropriate.

Practice within areas of competence. Consult with colleagues, or refer patient/clients to other practitioners, in any situation involving conflict,

inadequate training, or personal limitation-such as, but not limited to, any of the following:

- When any aspect of the patient/client's case requires greater experience, training, or skill than the practitioner can offer.
- When there is a need for diagnostic tests or procedures beyond the capacity of the homeopath.
- When the homeopath's care is not providing reasonable and timely resolution of the patient's/client's health problems.
- When circumstances arise which create a conflict between the homeopath's personal and professional relationship with the patient/client.
- If a homeopath's competence or judgement is impaired by physical or mental incapacity, or chemical dependency.

Each patient/client must be informed that the goal of treatment is to help strengthen the constitution and thereby raise the general level of health of the patient/client. It is not to treat any particular disease or condition but to stimulate the vital force.

Keep full and accurate records of all contacts with patients/clients, including individual data such as name, address, phone number, date of birth and case data such as medical history, dates and details of consultations, and summary of recommendations made. All records shall be kept in a secure locked and confidential space at all times, access being restricted to the homeopath and her/his assistants. All records shall be kept for a minimum of ten years.

The homeopath shall not communicate in any form the contents of the patient/client case records or any information obtained within the practitioner/patient relationship, except as follows:

- a. in response to a valid court order;
- b. in an emergency or other dangerous situation where in the opinion of the homeopath, the information may assist in the prevention of possible injury to the patient/client or to another person. Disclosure may be required where there is a

reasonable suspicion of child or elder abuse or there is a reasonable suspicion that the patient/client presents a danger to him or herself or to others;

- c. where the patient/client has consented in writing to the nature and extent of the disclosure.

Written consent must be obtained from the patient/client in order to consult with another colleague.

The homeopath shall not make or sign any false or misleading certificates or reports. No report shall be given to a third party without the consent of the patient/client concerned. The homeopath shall honor the confidentiality of all patients/clients whose cases are used in published articles, case conference presentations, or training lectures (by withholding/changing names and all identifying details). A written consent form must be obtained from the patient/client in order to teach, present or publish any part of a patient/client's case history (written/video). Any such disclosure/informed consent form used should clearly and accurately identify the homeopath's training, credentials, skills and nature of work; and the homeopath should ensure that each patient/client signs this form which becomes part of the documentation.

In the case of a patient/client transferring from one homeopath to another, it is the responsibility of the new homeopath to advise and encourage the patient/client to inform their former homeopath. The homeopath shall obtain records from the previous homeopath with permission from the patient/client.

Interactions with Public Agencies

Report any suspected communicable diseases to the appropriate agency as soon as possible.

Interactions within the Profession

Honor the homeopathic profession, its history and traditions. Each practitioner's words and actions reflect upon the profession as a whole.

Speak respectfully about fellow practitioners, both homeopathic and other fields, acknowledging differences in styles of practice and training in a constructive way, whether in public or with patients/clients.

Continue personal and professional development by undertaking further study, conferring with colleagues, and seeking greater understanding of homeopathic theory and practice, supporting other homeopaths in that goal. Promote the art and science of homeopathy through appropriate research.

If conducting homeopathic research, give substances used in provings only to those individuals who have an understanding of the nature of the proving process, and who have volunteered, with written consent, to participate. Consider any person involved in experimental provings or other studies to be the researcher's patient/client; be guided by the welfare of each person, and the moral imperative that the homeopath's only calling is to make sick people well. Report research findings and clinical experience methodically, honestly, and without distortion. Identify any speculative theories clearly as such. Carefully honor the confidentiality of all patients/clients whose cases are used in published articles, case conference presentations, or training lectures.

In writing or speaking, if the homeopath is aware that she/he is directly using a colleague's ideas, she/he shall reference these accordingly and give due respect to her/his fellow homeopaths.

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