

# CHC Code of Professional Ethics

The Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC) considers the following principles to be guides to the ethical practice of homeopathy, and to be morally binding on all homeopaths:

## *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 Clients*

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

Assist clients in weighing the possible benefits and risks of other (non-homeopathic) therapeutic options, 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. A non-licensed homeopath shall not make a recommendation to discontinue current medications or treatments prescribed by a licensed health care practitioner. While the homeopath may freely educate his/her client concerning how homeopathic and pharmaceutical and other approaches diverge and even conflict, he/she must also leave no doubt that any and all responsibility for modification of the client's medication regime rests entirely with the client in consultation with the prescribing health care practitioner. The homeopath should ensure that any substantive discussions regarding prescribed medications and treatments are appropriately documented in the client's chart notes.

Render assistance to clients in emergency situations, to the greatest extent permitted by training and circumstances.

Practice within areas of competence. Consult with colleagues, or refer 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 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 client's health problems.
- When circumstances arise which create a conflict between the homeopath's personal and professional relationship with the client
- If a homeopath's competence or judgment is impaired by physical or mental incapacity, or chemical dependency

Keep full and accurate records of all contacts with 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.

Exercise appropriate discretion in the wording of any advertisements; practitioners who are not medically licensed with authority to diagnose and treat in the state/province where they practice should carefully avoid any reference to medical diagnoses or diagnostic tests, and focus on establishment of health rather than resolution of disease.

Unless you possess a healthcare license which precludes the need for disclosure/informed consent about homeopathy ---then use a disclosure/informed consent form which clearly and accurately identifies your training, credentials, skills and nature of your work; ensure that each client signs this form which becomes a part of the client documentation.

## *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 in other fields, acknowledging differences in styles of practice and training in a constructive way, whether in public or with clients.

Continue personal and professional development by undertaking further study, conferring with colleagues, and seeking greater understanding of homeopathic theory and practice, and 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 client; be guided by the welfare of each person, and the moral imperative that the homeopath's only calling is to help 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 clients whose cases are used in published articles, case conference presentations, or training lectures.