



# NAHP Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

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As an organization of distinction, consisting of the world's leading healthcare professionals, the National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP) is a for profit organization which promotes and provides quality certification programs that validate competency in the healthcare arena for the enhancement of patient care and professional practice. The NAHP designations demonstrate to colleagues, patients, employers, and the public that certified individuals have the knowledge and proficiency required of the healthcare professional. Professionals earn this distinction through education, experience, and meeting the highest standards of science and practice of professional healthcare validated by their performance through examination.

The ethical obligations of the healthcare professionals include a commitment to continuous growth and development, professionalism across disciplines, and the highest standards of patient/client healthcare. This serves to clarify to current and future certificants, and to those served by certificants, the nature of the ethical responsibilities held in common by its certificants. All individuals certified by the National Association for Health Professionals are required to adhere to the Code of Ethics.

## **Purpose of the National Association for Health Professionals Code of Ethics**

The healthcare professional has an obligation to demonstrate actions that reflect values, ethical principles, and ethical guidelines. The National Association for Health Professionals (NAHP) Code of Ethics sets forth these values and principles to guide conduct. It clarifies the social contract that dictates the profession's responsibilities to the patient/client, the public, and the profession; and upholds the fundamental principle that the paramount purpose of the healthcare professional's services shall be to benefit the patient/client.

## **Code of Ethics, Principles and Interpretative Guidelines**

The following ethical principles are based on the core values of the National Association for Health Professionals and apply to all NAHP certificants. Guidelines included for each ethical principle are a non-exhaustive list of behaviors and situations that can help to clarify the principle. They are not meant to be a comprehensive list of all situations that can occur.

A NAHP certificant that is practicing healthcare agrees to adhere to the following Code of Ethics, Principles and Interpretative Guidelines:

- Foremost, do no harm. A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA consciously avoids harmful actions or omissions, embodies high ethical standards and adheres to all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations in the choices he/she makes.
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA places service and the health and welfare of persons before self-interest and conducts oneself in the practice of the profession so as to bring honor to oneself, peers, and to the healthcare profession.

- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA respects and understands that he/ she is a healthcare professional dedicated to providing competent and scientifically sound health care and other appropriate care within their own scope of practice, with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA upholds the standards of professionalism, and is honest in all professional interactions. A healthcare professional will additionally be knowledgeable about established policies and procedures for handling concerns about unethical behavior. These include policies and procedures created by NAHP, licensing and regulatory bodies, employers, supervisors, agencies, and other professional organizations (see NAHP Disciplinary and Complaint Policy).
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA upholds the standards of professionalism and commits to performing his/her duties competently, safely and ethically. Drug and alcohol abuse will not be tolerated by the NAHP. Any person discovered using alcohol or drugs in a professional practice would be subject to discipline, including certification revocation. (see NAHP Disciplinary and Complaint Policy)
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA respects the rights of patients, clients, colleagues, and other health professionals, and safeguards patient/client confidence, trust, and privacy in accordance with the law. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, being familiar with and carrying out all HIPAA compliance requirements.
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA commits to the study, application, and advancement of scientific knowledge, continues to seek related health education, makes relevant healthcare science information available to patients/clients, colleagues, and the public, obtains consultation, and recognizes the talents of other health professionals when indicated.
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA values his or her responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the community and the betterment of public health.
- A NRCAHA/NRCCS/NRCEKG/NRCMA/NRCPCT/NRCPHT/NRCPT/NRCST/NRCDA truthfully and accurately states one's credentials, professional education, and experiences.

