



# American Naprapathic Association

Headquarters at the NCNM University  
3330 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60641

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## ANA Rules and Guidelines on DN Professional Conduct

### Professionalism and Naprapathic Doctor Responsibilities

Expertise and professionalism are essential skillsets anticipated from every Naprapathic Practitioner. These professionals, extensively educated and skilled, command admiration from both their colleagues and the wider community. Their roles encompass a variety of responsibilities. In their capacity as healthcare providers, they identify and treat connective tissue disorders; as advisors, they provide patients with insights into their health status and the potential ramifications of treatment choices and lifestyle decisions; as advocates, they represent patients' needs to caregivers and health insurance providers; and as counselors, they actively listen to patients and engage in discussions regarding their well-being with family members and other stakeholders in healthcare choices. Patients and their families confide in Naprapathic Practitioners with sensitive information, primarily concerning health matters but often extending to personal details beyond.

Naprapathic Doctors are to maintain the respect and trust of society, acknowledge the responsibilities and obligations they carry and must act accordingly. Naprapathic Medical ethics encompasses principles that should guide Naprapathic Doctors in both their professional and personal endeavors. Although ethics and professionalism cover a wide range of concepts, some of the recognized elements include:

- Non-maleficence – prioritizing the principle of "first, do no harm"
- Serving as positive role models
- Demonstrating respect in all interactions
- Upholding legal and ethical standards
- Effectively managing potential conflicts of interest
- Beneficence – prioritizing the patient's best interests and altruism
- Autonomy – respecting the patient's right to choose their treatment
- Dignity – recognizing the patient's right to dignity, truthfulness, and honesty
- Engaging in self-evaluation programs and accepting constructive criticism

The ANA's Code of Ethics provides guidelines for Naprapathic Doctors in their interactions with patients, society, and the ANA. These guidelines are intended to complement the ANA Code of Ethics by offering rules and guidance for Naprapathic Doctors' conduct as professionals beyond their traditional role in healthcare delivery. Some of these rules and guidelines are mandatory ("shall" or "shall not"), while others are permissive ("may," "should," "should not," or "may not"), recognizing a Naprapathic Doctor's discretion to assess specific contexts and exercise professional judgment.

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Ultimately, the rules and guidelines established by the ANA are meant to steer Naprapathic Doctors toward appropriate professional behavior and provide a framework for regulating their conduct. Any assessment of a Naprapathic Doctor's conduct should consider the facts and circumstances at the time of the conduct, recognizing that decisions may have been made based on uncertain or incomplete information. The rules and guidelines are not intended to serve as a basis for civil liability. Rather, perceived failure to comply with the ANA Code of Ethics or these Rules and Guidelines may trigger the ANA's disciplinary process through the Board of Naprapathy's Subcommittee on Ethics.

1. A Naprapathic Doctor's conduct must align with legal requirements when providing naprapathic/professional services to patients or conducting business and personal affairs.
2. Naprapathic Doctors should utilize their professional status for legitimate purposes only, refraining from exploiting economic or social opportunities or engaging in harassment or intimidation.
3. Naprapathic Doctors have a duty to advocate for their patients' best interests and to conduct themselves civilly. When appropriate, they should disclose and resolve any conflicts of interest that may affect care decisions.
4. Patients may represent diverse cultures and beliefs. Naprapathic Doctors should respect patients' social and cultural backgrounds and provide necessary care without discrimination based on factors such as gender, race, religion, age, or sexual orientation.
5. Naprapathic Doctors have limited autonomy to regulate conduct within their profession through participation in state licensing boards, hospital or clinic credentialing committees, and peer review processes. They should actively contribute to self-regulation by establishing and upholding practice standards that prioritize patient care over personal interests.
6. Naprapathic Doctors are responsible for adhering to the ANA Code of Ethics and these Rules and Guidelines on Professional Conduct. While compliance primarily depends on understanding and voluntarily adhering to these obligations, Naprapathic Doctors should also strive to ensure compliance among their peers through formal or informal peer opinion expression or, when necessary, disciplinary proceedings. Protected peer review processes should be utilized for disclosing adverse events and medical errors.
7. Naprapathic Doctors should be cognizant of healthcare disparities within the United States and internationally. Whenever feasible, they should aid those in need in accessing appropriate naprapathic medical care.

**From Your ANA Board of Directors**  
***“Committed to serving Naprapathic Doctors”***