



College of Homeopaths of Ontario

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STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

TITLE: PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE HOMEOPATHY PROFESSION
SCHEDULE 4 TO THE BYLAWS / Also known as CHO Professional Practice Standard 14

STATUS: Approved by Council

CIRCULATION DATE: March – June 2013

APPROVAL DATE: November 18, 2013

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects homeopathic practice, the legislation governs.

College publications contain practice parameters and standards which should be considered by all Ontario homeopaths in the care of their patients and in the practice of the profession. College publications are developed in consultation with the profession and describe current professional expectations. It is important to note that these College publications may be used by the College or other bodies in determining whether appropriate standards of practice and professional responsibilities have been maintained.

INTENT

This schedule is intended to outline, in broad fashion, the obligations to which Registrants of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario (hereafter referred to as the College) are expected to adhere in their relationships with the public, patients, fellow practitioners and other health care professionals.

PREAMBLE

The College recognizes that:

- One of the underlying principles of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) is to permit the public to exercise freedom of choice of health care provider within a range of safe options.
- Registrants are required to practise within the Homeopathic scope of practice set out in the *Homeopathic Act, 2007*, in providing ethical and competent patient centred care.

Through individual practitioners and the collective work of the College, professional associations, and homeopathic schools, there is an increasing awareness by the public, employers and other healthcare professionals of the practice of homeopathy as a primary health-care option in Ontario's integrated healthcare system. The public is entitled to safe, effective and ethical care performed by knowledgeable, skilled, and accountable practitioners in accordance with the professional standards of the College. Each Registrant will provide individualized and competent care, recognizing the patient's particular needs, and respecting their cultural background.

Each homeopath acts, at all times, in a manner as to justify public trust and confidence, to uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the profession, to serve the interest of society, and above all to safeguard the best interests of individual patients.

In all professional undertakings, including but not limited to the therapeutic relationship, Registrants respect the practice of homeopathy and adhere to the characteristics of an ethical homeopath. Within the context of these values and principles, registrants fulfill their professional obligations.

The Principles of Professional Ethics is a set of values intended to provide all registrants with information about the College's expectations of ethical conduct. It is a framework that describes the boundaries of acceptable professional



practice. The Principles of Professional Ethics is a critical and enforceable element of the College's programs and as such, it is crucial that all registrants are knowledgeable about the contents of this document. Additionally, this document is intended to assist patients and other members of the public to better understand the components of ethical care that they should expect from a homeopath.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

A. VALUES

The body of work of Aristotle holds that the virtues (such as justice, charity, and generosity) are dispositions to act in ways that benefit both the person possessing them and that person's society. Accordingly, the following represent a set of qualities desirable for an ethical homeopath to have in order to protect the public.

Altruistic:	Unbiased, impartial and unselfish concern for the well-being of others.
Competent:	Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully.
Courteous:	Polite, considerate in manner and respectful, showing deference, respect and due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others.
Responsible:	Having an obligation to do something, or caring for someone, as part of one's job or role.
Trustworthy:	Able to be relied on as honest or truthful.
Unprejudiced:	Not having or showing a dislike or distrust based on fixed or preconceived ideas.

B. ETHICAL OBLIGATION

While the practice of homeopathy includes a number of qualities to be considered ethical, those qualities need be demonstrated. This demonstration transpires in fulfilling one's duties and obligations to society in general, individual patients, professional colleagues, the public and regulatory bodies. The following outlines the specific expectations for an ethical homeopath.

Section 1: General

The ethical homeopath:

1. Provides patient-centred care within the scope of homeopathic practice as per the *Homeopathy Act, 2007*.
2. Maintains standards of professional competence and ethics including the principles of altruism, courteousness, responsibility, trustworthiness, and being non-judgmental.
3. Acts in accordance within the scope and standards of practice of the College including regulations, guidelines, policies and programs.
4. Clearly informs all interested parties of scope and limitations of practice;
5. Commits to the highest level of effective homeopathic treatment through the maintenance and application of relevant knowledge and skill;
6. Acts within the individual's level of competence and recognizes limitations;
7. Does not exploit any relationship, established as a homeopath, to further his/her own physical, psychological, emotional, financial, political, or business interests that could be considered as a conflict of interest and at the expense of the best interest of the patient and the public;
8. Openly acknowledges any conscientious objection or conflict of interest, which may affect professional practice;
9. Keeps confidential and private all information received except when reporting is required by law (i.e. RHPA, etc);
10. Implements safety measures to protect patients, self and colleagues from injury and hazards.



11. Acts without discrimination or prejudice in a manner consistent with the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Ontario Human Rights Code;
12. Conducts him/her self with dignity so as to bring honour to the profession.

Section 2: Obligations to the Patient

The ethical homeopath:

1. Has as the first consideration the well being of patients and acts in the best interest of their welfare;
2. Demonstrates respect for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of patients;
3. Demonstrates sensitivity to and respects each patient's rights, autonomy, dignity and uniqueness;
4. In the case of emergency, provide care or refer the patient to the most appropriate health care provider;
5. Clearly informs and educates patients as to the role, function, standards and philosophy of homeopathic practice;
6. Respects patients' right to informed choice, to request opinions from other homeopaths regarding a treatment plan; acknowledges patients' right to consult with other health professionals or integrate other therapeutic modalities in combination with homeopathic treatment;
7. Ensures that his/her conduct in the practice of the homeopathic profession is above reproach;
8. Does not practice under conditions which may adversely affect the quality of services including when impaired or ill with any illness that could put patients at risk;
9. Is responsible in setting a reasonable value for their services;
10. Posts a schedule of service fees in a prominent and visible location in the office.

Section 3: Obligations to Professional Colleagues

The ethical homeopath:

1. Speaks professionally of fellow practitioners or other health care professionals, their qualifications or the procedures they use;
2. Works collaboratively with other practitioners/team members/professionals and others, as appropriate, with a goal to enhancing patient care (e.g., information sharing, treatment, consultation and education) focused on the best interests of the patient;
3. Demonstrates respect for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of colleagues, associates, or employees.

Section 4: Obligations to the Public

The ethical homeopath:

1. Claims only qualifications possessed;
2. Accurately represents the nature of homeopathic treatment;
3. Maintains a respectful relationship with members of the public in order to facilitate awareness and understanding of the profession of homeopathy;
4. Upholds the principle of informed consent, including the patient's right to choose from a range of options;
5. Reports to the respective College, where they have reason to believe sexual abuse of a patient by another registrant of any of the regulated health professions;
6. Reports to the College of Homeopaths of Ontario, where there is reason to believe incompetence, misconduct, incapacity, sub-standard and/or unethical behavior, or sexual abuse of a patient by another registrant.



Section 5: Obligations to the College

The ethical homeopath:

1. Maintains professional competency through ongoing self-assessment, intra-professional collaboration and professional development.
2. Maintains the Standards of Practice and conduct himself/herself in a professional, competent and ethical manner;
3. Complies with the Regulated Health Professions Act 1991 (RHPA), the Homeopathy Act 2007 and the Regulations, Bylaws, standards, guidelines, policies, procedures, and programs of the College;
4. Abides by the laws of the jurisdiction of the practice location and complies with all governing legislation relevant to the Registrant's practice;
5. Informs the College when serious incapacity affects or may affect, over time, the Registrant's continuing ability to practice safely and competently;
6. Recognizes that self-regulation is a privilege and that each registrant has a continuing responsibility to merit the retention of the privilege.