



Code of Ethics

The principles of ethical conduct include:

- Accountability
- Confidentiality
- Consent
- Dignity
- Effective communication
- Integrity
- Sensitivity to diversity
- Trust

Obligations/Responsibilities to the Public

The public is entitled to safe effective and ethical care performed by knowledgeable, skilled, accountable practitioners in accordance with the professional standards of the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association.

Each member will provide individualized comprehensive and safe care, recognizing the patient's particular needs, and respecting their cultural background. The member shall not abuse a patient physically, sexually, psychologically, emotionally, or financially or participate in any arrangement that could be considered as a conflict of interest.

The Member shall:

1. Commit to the highest level of professional efficacy through the maintenance and application of current relevant knowledge and skill.
2. Uphold the principle of informed consent pursuant to current legislation, including the patient's right to choose from a full range of options for treatment.
3. The podiatrist acts in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the patient and the records of the patient.
4. Record and update all patient information strategies and test results, maintaining the privacy of all clinical records.
5. Demonstrate respect for the physical, emotional well-being of a patient.
6. Not provide services when impaired by alcohol, drugs or any other substances or any illness that could put patients at risk.
7. Not provide patient services while the member is in a conflict of interest.
8. Treat all patients equitably and with respect.

9. Communicate complete, accurate information clearly to the patient through verbal, non-verbal and /or written material while establishing a feedback process to ensure individual understanding.
10. Recognize that a patient has the right to accept or reject any Podiatrist and/or any care recommended.
11. Not exploit any relationship that furthers his or her own physical, psychological, emotional, financial, and political or business interest.
12. Maintain a respectful relationship with members of the public in order to facilitate awareness and understanding of the profession of Podiatry.
13. Not recommend unnecessary procedures, or bill a patient excessively in relation to the services or devices provided, or cause a patient to be billed for any professional service not rendered.
14. Refer or assist patients to find another regulated health professional when the condition or the status of the patient falls outside his or her scope of practice, education or experience.
15. The podiatrist shall ensure that communications to the public are accurate and do not convey false, untrue, deceptive, or misleading information. The podiatrist shall provide truthful and accurate representations of his/her credentials, training, experience, or ability. The podiatrist shall not communicate claims of superiority that cannot be substantiated.
16. The podiatrist shall provide truthful disclosure of actual and potential conflicts of interest in the recommendation and/or prescription of services, materials, medications, and facilities that may be utilized in the care of a patient.

Obligations/Responsibilities to the Member

Each member must perform/act/function in accordance within the scope, authorized acts and standards of practice of the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association, (including regulations, guidelines and policies) within the individual's level of competence. The registrant must continually update professional knowledge and skills relevant to their area of practice. A registrant shall collaborate with professionals and others as appropriate to enhance their patients' care.

The Member shall:

17. Provide competent ethical services to patients ensuring that Quality Assurance requirements of the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association are met.
18. Participate in professional development, continuing education and integrate relevant learning into their practice.
19. Maintain current knowledge of legislation relevant to their scope of practice and their authorized acts.
20. Demonstrate knowledge of the advances in research and incorporate established results into practice.
21. Inform the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association when an injury or dependency, infectious condition or any other serious incapacity affects or may affect, over time, the member's continuing ability to practice safely and competently.

22. Develop and maintain professional collaborative relationships and exchange knowledge and information as required in the interest of a patient's health while respecting patient confidentiality and legislation related to consent to treatment.
23. Acknowledge a patient's right to consult with other health professionals.
24. Act at all times with regard and respect for peers and other health professionals and not discredit the Podiatry profession or fellow practitioners.

Obligations/Responsibilities to the Profession

The Nova Scotia Podiatry Association expects the Member to maintain the Standards of Practice and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. Registrants are obligated to comply with the Regulations, By-laws, standards, guidelines, policies and procedures of the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association, and as required, to maintain and continually improve professional competency that will ensure the delivery of safe quality service.

The Member shall:

25. Recognize that self-regulation is a privilege and that each registrant has a continuing responsibility to merit the retention of the privilege.
26. Maintain professional integrity and conduct all professional activities, programs and relations honestly and responsibly.
27. Report any alleged unethical conduct, incompetent, unsafe practice or abuse of a patient by a health care provider to the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association and/or authority.
28. Maintain awareness of the Nova Scotia Podiatry Association Regulations, By-laws, standards, guidelines, policies and procedures and comply with the same.
29. Co-operate with Nova Scotia Podiatry Association investigations and/ or inquiries into the professional misconduct of any registrant/member of a regulated health profession.
30. Assist other Podiatrists and health care professionals as requested or needed.
31. Refrain from engaging in behaviour that could be construed as harassment or abuse of colleagues, associates, or employees.