

Union Européenne de Naturopathie
Unione Europea di Naturopatia
Unión Europea de la Naturopatía
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European Union of Naturopathy
Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση Φυσιοπαθητική

European Deontological Code of Naturopath Practitioners

Preamble

CONSIDERING a spectacular progress in medical and technical knowledge relating to the most recent scientific discoveries, the decrease of child mortality as well as the increase of the average longevity, those are the direct consequences of huge progresses in hygiene, sociology and in the different medicines of the world.

CONSIDERING the main tendency to favor artificial prophylaxis and neglect the important point of individual prevention by a “laws of life” teaching, a healthy life and a self regulation of health,

CONSIDERING you can notice a decrease of epidemic diseases, you can see quite the reverse a worrying worsening of chronic and metabolic diseases known as « diseases of civilization » like cardiovascular, autoimmune, allergic, viral, neuro-psycho troubles, diabetes, obesity... in front of which actual medicine is often helpless,

CONSIDERING the determination of a growing number of people who want to take control of their health, who don't want anymore to be answerable to only one medical system, and who want to be aware of their responsibilities,

CONSIDERING that maintaining people in good health can't be devolving only on the strictly speaking medical profession defined by the public health Code,

CONSIDERING that from 1969, W.H.O. has been directed towards sanitary education «that is applicable to all case, which could change, in people's life, their beliefs and their behavior towards health problems, as well as towards the reasons of how those behaviors change when people reach the optimum health they can»,

CONSIDERING the choice made for primary preventing health care during the Conference in Alma Alta in 1978 and ratified by the 32nd World Assembly of health in its resolution WHA 32.30 in 1979,

CONSIDERING the consideration taken by the European Community of the non conventional medicines to their harmonization,

CONSIDERING the adoption by the European Parliament about a resolution very keen on the statutes of non conventional medicines on May 29th 1997 (report Colins/ex.Lannoye),

CONSIDERING the report « Public Health within the European Community” which refers to the rightfulness in The Treaty of Rome (free movement of people, including health professional and their patients - 1957), that specifies the article 129 in the Treaty of Maastricht saying « that emphasizes the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases»,

This report asserts « that is as well advisable to develop personal skills in order to give the population the necessary knowledge to (...) take in consideration its own health. It « encourages the Member States to make a priority health promotion and bring together their ideas and experiences »,

CONSIDERING the legal possibility, for health practitioners (non doctors), to practice in a lot of member States in European Union and elsewhere in the occidental world as oriental medicine,
CONSIDERING the French report of the consultative body advising the government on economic and social matters of 1982 which underlined the necessity of a real sanitary prevention,
CONSIDERING the report Béraud in 1992 denouncing the health system's erosion and its « non medical and economic quality»,
CONSIDERING that each individual, in accordance with the health definition described by the W.H.O. (World Health Organization), has the right to reach «a total state of physical, mental et social well-being». Health is « not only an absence of disease or disability»,
CONSIDERING the important consideration taken about the patient and individual's rights, at a European level as well as a world level,
CONSIDERING in this point of view that the naturopath should be able to facilitate the access of his patient to the «best level of health» he « can reach»,
CONSIDERING the existence of a real French and European professional body of whom hygienic practitioners, educators, practitioners and technically-oriented naturopaths, have their exercise as well listed by the International Bureau of Work (IBW), coming under the WHO. However, the reality keeps going to be ignored by the legislation of Health Ministry,
CONSIDERING in a lot of countries is developed a new "integrative medicine" in which doctors (allopathic practitioners) and non doctors (naturopaths) collaborate in a peaceful partnership, respecting differences and action's complementarities (a dozen of north American states, Anglophone Canada, New Zealand, Australia, India, China, Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany...),
CONSIDERING that choices made by the WHO for 20 years in favour of a sanitary health development, of a primary prevention and of rights to reach an optimum health for everyone, have been clearly reaffirmed in the new project «Health for everyone in the 21st century»,
CONSIDERING that the European report « CAMBRELLA » concerning the situation of non conventional medicines (December 2012) suggest to adopt an open position towards naturopathy and naturopaths,
CONSIDERING in the name of the principle of a humans and ideas' free circulation on the European territory, it is more and more usual for naturopaths to settle down in another country,
CONSIDERING that concerning mutual professional recognitions and besides necessary academic agreements or private equivalent qualification (European founds ECTS and knowledge and experience's authentification), It is important that naturopath practitioners take a stand for a shared ethic within the member states,
Therefore, the European Union of Naturopathy (E.U.N.), gathering together the professional associations (unions, trade unions, groups) of naturopaths and reflecting the big majority of the European Corporation, gave its energy to write and publish this actual Professional Code of Ethics of the naturopath practitioner.

INTRODUCTION

This Professional Code of Ethics is the whole behavioral and ethic rules for which naturopaths submit their behavior, even outside from the practice. It enlightens as well exchanges between the practitioner in one side and customers, colleagues and other professional disciplines in another side.

The Professional Code of Ethics represents, for a professional category, a real business card, which reflects his duties and the symbol of a technical human, social and moral irreproachability of its members.

The possible violation of ethical rules would follow a disciplinary sanction of the offender, fit the gravity of the offence.

In fine, the deontology's essence is not only indivisible from the philosophy and the science of our profession, but especially as well of the ethics, which is the main whole of inalienable values given in rights terms and fraternal, social, humanitarian and ecological duties. This document is actually the real European professional Charter of naturopathy and is the essential reference in authentication's processes and in the official recognition of our art in each member country.

PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS

1. General duties.

- a. A naturopath, in the course of his professional activity, respects dignity and fundamental rights of his patient and neither influences nor interferes with his opinions, his beliefs or religious, ideological or ethical values.
- b. He has to serve people, and by teaching Laws of life to everyone who want, he can help to reach as highest level of health as possible.
- c. He never mentally manipulates his patient.

2. Formation's declaration.

A naturopath, in order to help his patient to understand what a consultation is, can talk about his past training, his skills and qualifications, précising the nature, the aim and the limits of his job.

He has to stick up his diplomas and certificates.

3. Educational methods.

As a « teacher of health », a naturopath has to communicate as clearly as possible to his patient, and be assured that his patient understands his advices' program.

In that way, a naturopath values the ability to listen, the knowledge and the acceptance of the individual. He knows how to support and encourage the patient in life reforms without which he isn't neither able to change his vitality nor self manage his own health.

According to the received check-up clearly explained, the patient will know how apply those reforms with more autonomy and responsibility.

As soon as those keys of learning a new hygiene of life are completely internalized, the patient will be able to become emancipated and will keep going on his way of life alone because he will know how to balance everyday the main basis of his well-being: nutritional, neurological, psychological, physical, socio-cultural and environmental hygiene.

4. Diagnosis.

If the « naturopathic diagnosis » is granted to a naturopath (Germany, Scandinavia, Portugal...), it is certainly not the equivalent to a « disease's diagnosis» given by an allopathic doctor. See as well Article 17th.

5. Respect of current medical treatments and prescriptions.

A naturopath never interferes in a current medical treatment followed by the patient. See as well Article 17th.

6. Pregnancy and familial life.

a. A naturopath never interferes within the scope of neither a breaking off of pregnancy, nor a labor. He can be with the pregnant woman during her pregnancy only if she wishes it.

b. He never interferes neither in familial business of his patient.

7. Report's nature and containing of the naturopathic performance.

a. A naturopath has to assume a professional and assiduous behavior, in order to reach as much as possible what results the patient wished.

b. He can't guarantee the success of the cures, advices or treatments given, because he assures an obligation of ways, not results.

c. A naturopath neither introduces his methods as « miraculous » nor promises a recovery.

d. A naturopath never uses techniques that have nothing to do with the philosophy, the science or the founder principles characterizing his art.

e. He is faithful to the Hippocratic traditional basics which are the same in every school of naturopathy in the world:

- i. Above all, never harm (*Primum non nocere*)
- ii. The healing power of Nature (*Vis medicatrix naturae*)

- iii. Identify and eliminate the causes (Tolle causam)
- iv. Detoxify and purify the body (Deinde purgare)
- v. A naturopath is a teacher (Docere)
- vi. Treat the entire individual (Home totus, Tolle totum)
- vii. Prevention is the best cure to maintain the highest level of health and well-being possible (Prævenire)

8. Discharge of responsibility

After having informed his patient about the nature, the terms and the limitations of the consultation, a naturopath can ask him to sign a discharge of responsibility.

In case the patient refuses to sign this document, the naturopath can refuse to give the consultation.

9. Responsibility

a. He is required to subscribe to a civil, professional and juridical insurance.

b. His acts and advices always has to correspond to what he thinks being the fairest for his patient and devotes the necessary time to be sure that this one perfectly understood his program of naturopathic reforms.

10. Data's treatment

A naturopath keeps the collected pieces of information during his activity but guarantees the private life of his patient and respects the administrative and fiscal rules of the State in which he practices.

11. Professional secret and users.

a. A naturopath refrains from revealing private pieces of information to a third party linked to his activity, except if the patient gives a written authorization.

b. However –and in accordance with the modes fit for different nations where he is practicing-, a naturopath can't test the professional secret against the requirements from the juridical authorities.

12. Professional Autonomy.

a. A naturopath practices his activity in a total autonomy regarding the other professional disciplines.

b. He clearly claim his professional autonomy and can't be compared with a paramedical work in which he would practice above the authorities or the control of the medical body.

13. Training of a Naturopath.

a. The professional trainings of a naturopath include every discipline linked to the professional practice, including ethical rules in which a naturopath has to be submitted.

b. The training needs to guarantee the plurality of natural theories and methods fit with the international corporation. It has to become aware with flexibility of the professional realities and never amounts to a fundamentalist or sectarian doctrine.

c. This training has nothing to do with the allopathic medicine training. It is, nowadays, mainly delivered by private structures.

d. The profession is declined above complementary aspects of "knowledge", "savoir faire", "good being" and « good giving » (or « good teaching »).

e. The title of « naturopath » is only given to the one who has strictly followed a very professional and complete training and in the countries where the naturopath is legally recognized, having the right qualities in accordance with the actual law.

14. Continuant education.

a. A naturopath has to follow regularly a continuant education.

b. The continuant education's terms are established by national associations in accordance with the eventual changes of law.

15. Professional payment.

a. A naturopath has to respect the price advised by his professional national association (Union, group, federation). He has to make his own price with tact and measure.

b. The price the patient has to pay is no way conditioned by the wished result.

16. Links with colleagues.

a. Naturopaths share with each other the principles of a healthy and friendly corporation with solidarity, loyalty and respect.

- b. They abstain to criticize negatively their colleagues or their professional or private practice.
- c. A naturopath can share with colleagues what he has learned during his practice, as long as he keeps his patient anonymous, especially for the case of complementary practice for the patient or the links within a consulting office.
- d. Any attempted corruption of patients is allowed.
- e. A naturopath, in some particular cases, can assign a colleague the possibility to replace him, with the patient's agreement, even if the patient's personal pieces of information has to be revealed.

17. Naturopath's relations with sanitary professionals.

- a. If a naturopath thinks the patient needs other practitioner of health's advice, he informs straight away this one which other practitioner could perfectly complete his work.
- b. A naturopath never breaks the law concerning the illegal practice of medicine, because he never gives a classical diagnosis (allopathic diagnosis) and neither gives a symptomatic treatment (allopathic treatment). His main skills are about «active primary prevention» or «education of permanent health» and «ground's correction» (Hippocratic humors, biologic, energetic).
- c. A naturopath as well can be very helpful in the case of grave pathologies (lesion-causing or degenerative). His practice and his advices can perfectly complete allopathic health care.
- d. Despite the fact that the whole naturopath's knowledge and « savoir faire » are totally established within the tradition of his corporation, he has to contribute to every study which would prove scientifically the efficiency and the harmlessness of this discipline.

18. Relations with other disciplines.

A naturopath is aware to every kind of collaboration with other practitioners of well-being and with professionals of the sanitary sector, without hoping to receive any financial privilege in exchange.

19. Dignity and representativeness.

- a. A naturopath has to always assure a behavior inspired by dignity and representativeness, either during his practice or when he represents his corporation.
- b. Through a naturopathic consultation, he always remains in a total empathy relationship with his patient. He works with special technics like active listening, help relations. This way, he builds a real healthy pact with his patient, which represents the fundamental early signs of a global (holistic) rebalancing of the patient. Therefore the practitioner can't ignore the dynamic founders of the psychological relations and of the communication.
- c. A naturopath practices his activity in the right place in order to not compromise the quality of the given consultations and not discredit his work.
- d. A stallholder's naturopathy is forbidden.
- e. His private and public behavior tries to be true with his professional ideals he works for.

20. Abusive practice of Naturopathy.

- a. Any professional hearing that a naturopath practices without any title has to inform the Disciplinary Committee of his association or professional union, whom could inform in turn the fact to the authorities should this happen.
- b. A naturopath never keeps any collaboration with people who could discredit or tarnish the good reputation of this discipline.

21. No self-interested advices.

The practitioner doesn't receive any payment or personal commission in exchange to the equipment or natural products he can advice to his patients.

22. Advertising & communication.

- a. A naturopath keeps his dignity and his representativeness specific to his own occupation during a communication with the public about his activity. He has to respect the promotional terms and suited to the media which respects the laws in force.
- b. He never resorts to comparative communications mentioning his superiority by comparison with another corporation or practitioner of health.
- c. He never talks about sure recovery or therapeutic results.
- d. Every activity like conferences, placements, seminars, public animations, articles, books or websites is considered as informative or educational but not promotional.

23. Professional legibility.

A naturopath can mention his business cards, company note-paper, mural plaques or Websites every professional notes which can be justified and respecting laws in force.

24. Invoicing and relations with insurance companies.

As every delivery of a service in the professions, the naturopath has to give the invoice at the end of the consultation, mentioning fees and the made performance.

In accordance to the nations, this actual document could be useful to a patient in the case of an insurance can take care of the invoice.

25. EUN and application of the Code.

EUN delegates the application of this actual Professional Code of Ethics to the affiliated associations, groups, unions or professional federations, which are committed to spread it towards their members and make them respect the articles under oath.