

Nuffield Health and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) Code of Professional Conduct: Health and Wellbeing Physiologists

1. Conduct towards the Public

- 1.1. Health and Wellbeing Physiologists (hereon referred to as *Physiologists*) have a responsibility to serve the public interest in health, education and welfare. They shall be actively concerned with the health and welfare of colleagues, consumers and the wider community. In their professional capacities, Physiologists shall seek to advance public knowledge and understanding of health matters.
- 1.2. Physiologists shall only offer to do work or provide a service which is within their professional competence (please refer to Physiologists scope of practice for further guidance relating to professional competence) and shall not claim competence that they do not possess. Any professional opinion they give shall be objective and reliable.
- 1.3. Physiologists shall not make public statements in their professional capacity unless appropriately qualified and authorised to do so, and shall have due regard to the likely consequences of any statement on others.
- 1.4. Physiologists shall not misrepresent or withhold information on the capabilities of products, systems or services with which they are concerned or take advantage of the lack of knowledge or inexperience of others.
- 1.5. Physiologists shall, in their professional practice, have regard to basic human rights and shall avoid any actions that adversely affect such rights.
- 1.6. Physiologists shall not knowingly disseminate material which appears to encourage discrimination on the grounds of any of the protected characteristics.
- 1.7. Physiologists shall not knowingly engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation or any other behaviour which may bring Nuffield Health into disrepute.

2. Conduct within the Profession

- 2.1. Physiologists shall not knowingly engage in conduct which may prejudice the reputation of their profession.
- 2.2. Physiologists shall remain current with developments in their field, share ideas and information, keep accurate and complete records, maintain integrity in all conduct and publications, and give due credit to the contributions of others.
- 2.3. Physiologists shall conform to recognised good practice including quality standards which are in their judgement relevant, and shall encourage their associates to do likewise.
- 2.4. Physiologists shall seek to upgrade their professional knowledge and skill, maintain awareness of relevant developments, procedures and standards, and encourage their associates to do likewise.
- 2.5. Physiologists shall ensure they conform to the learning and development pathway requirements determined by the Physiology and Academy Leadership teams, and encourage their associates to do likewise.
- 2.6. Physiologists shall act with integrity towards members of their own and other professions with whom they are concerned in a professional capacity and shall avoid engaging in any activity which is incompatible with their professional status.
- 2.7. Physiologists shall support fellow Physiologists in their professional development and, where possible, provide opportunities for the development of new entrants to the profession.

3. Conduct towards Employers

- 3.1. Physiologists shall promote and protect the legitimate interests of their employer, perform work honestly and competently, fulfil all obligations, and safeguard proprietary information.

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- 3.2. Physiologists shall fulfil the contractual obligations owed to their employer. Where circumstances arise in which the public interest or the reputation of the profession may be at variance with the interests of an employer, the Physiologist should discuss the situation with the Physiology National Lead.

4. Conduct towards Employees

- 4.1. Physiologists who are also line Managers shall treat their staff with respect for their professionalism and concern for their wellbeing, provide them with a safe working environment, award them fair recompense for their work, and give them credit for their contributions.

5. Conduct towards Students

- 5.1. Where appropriate, Physiologists shall regard the tutelage of students as a trust conferred by the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH) for the promotion of the student's learning and professional development. Each student shall be treated respectfully.

6. Conduct towards Clients

- 6.1. Physiologists shall serve clients faithfully, respect confidentiality and advise honestly. Physiologists shall avoid any situation that may give rise to a conflict of interest between themselves and their client and shall make ordinary and immediate disclosure to the client if any such conflict should occur.
- 6.2. Clients will have given their informed consent prior to attending the visit. Ensure though that they understand each procedure that will take place. If any test is undertaken that is outside the norm, take extra care in ensuring the client understands what is involved.
- 6.3. Physiologists must treat information about clients as confidential and use it only for the purposes for which it was given. Clients understand that some information may be made available to other members of the team involved in the delivery of the service, but it remains important to guard against breaches of confidentiality by protecting information from improper disclosure at all times.
- 6.4. You must neither ask for, nor accept, loans from clients, their relatives or their friends and you must declare any gifts or other favours you have received from clients to the Physiology National Lead. The Physiology National Lead will advise you whether the gesture is appropriate or not and in line with Nuffield Health policy.

7. Responsibility for the Environment

- 7.1. Physiologists shall consider and anticipate the environmental consequences of their work. Physiologists shall act to avoid pollution and to protect the environment by promoting sustainability.

8. Conduct towards the Royal Society for Public Health

- 8.1. Physiologists shall comply with the Rules of the RSPH and the provisions of this Code of Conduct.
- 8.2. Physiologists shall not engage in conduct which may prejudice the reputation of the RSPH.
- 8.3. Physiologists shall not falsely or maliciously attempt to injure the reputation of another member.
- 8.4. Physiologists shall not refuse a reasonable request from another Member for information or guidance.

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Signed

Name

Date

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