



AARP Code of Conduct

Part 2: Ethics

For Practicing Nutritionists

Approved and Implemented on 30 September 2019

1. PURPOSE OF Code OF Ethics and Code of Conduct

- 1.1 The AARPN Code of conduct for Practicing Nutritionists offers guidance on how to act ethically and professionally in the capacity of an AARPN recognised Practitioner member when making any Nutrition Practice related decisions.
- 1.2 They are designed to guide AARPN members towards fulfilling proficient practice requirements as a practicing AARPN Nutritionist. It does not specify how to make decisions or to act in particular situations.
- 1.3 It reiterates that the practitioners have a duty of care towards their patients and their primary concern is to practise safely and effectively within an ethical framework.
- 1.4 It aims to;
- Recognise and communicate the requirements for Nutrition Practice as per AARPN constitution and code of conduct,
 - Communicate a basis of expected standards of Nutrition Practice,
 - Clarify what constitutes a 'inadequate professional misconduct', and
 - Inform the public and other allied health practitioner about the values and ethos of AARPN Practitioner members.

Extensive consultation was undertaken to develop this AARPN Code of Ethics by a Task-force committee nominated by the AARPN Chairperson, followed by a peer review process. These ethics will be reviewed and revised if necessary, on an annual basis to ensure they remain relevant to the changing nutrition, social and political environment.

All Nutrition Practitioners must always act in accordance with the law. This Code is not a substitute for the provisions of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (the National Law), or other relevant legislation and case law. If there is any conflict between the Code and the law, the law takes precedence.

- 1.5 It is essential for all Nutrition Practitioners to be aware of and to conform to, the standards, guidelines and policies of their board.
- 1.6 This code does not address the range of general legal obligations that are applicable for Nutrition Practitioners, such as those under privacy, child protection and antidiscrimination legislation. It is the duty of the individual practitioner to ensure that that they are aware of their obligations under the general law and other legislation, and to act in accordance with them.
- 1.7 This code is not an exhaustive study of professional ethics or an ethics guide. These standards of practice are found in documents issued by the relevant boards/work places/organizations/country/state and/or professional bodies.

3. DEFINITIONS

Please refer to AARPN constitution for other relevant definitions.

Professional conduct: is adherence to the AARPN Constitution, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, and the commitment of no act that could be construed as an act of inadequate professional conduct or professional misconduct.

Inadequate Professional conduct is 'conduct that falls short of the professional standard indicated in the constitution of AARPN and its Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, and/or conduct that falls short of the clinical performance and diligence, that the National and International professional Nutrition community, is entitled to expect of a degree qualified Nutritionist. This includes diverse platforms including but not limited to private practice, online, conferences, meetings, social gatherings, and government/community/public health.'

Professional misconduct is 'conduct which demonstrates a considerable and/or consistent failure to exhibit/maintain the professional standard indicated in the constitution of AARPN and its Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, and/or conduct which demonstrates a considerable and/or consistent failure to exhibit/maintain the clinical performance and diligence, that the National and International professional Nutrition community, is entitled to expect of a degree qualified Nutritionist, and if established, justify a finding that the practitioner is not competent to continue to be a member of AARPN and engage in Nutrition Practice. This includes diverse platforms including but not limited to private practice, online, conferences, meetings, social gatherings, and government/community/public health. Professional misconduct may additionally include conduct that places the Nutrition profession in disrepute and/or being convicted of a criminal offence.

Being Ethical means: 'Practicing Nutritionists act lawfully and responsibly and are accountable for their decision making'.

4. ABBREVIATIONS

AARPN	Australasian Association and Register of Practicing Nutritionists
AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
CNP	Clinical Nutrition Practitioner
COC	Code of Conduct
COE	Code of Ethics
NP	Nutrition practice
NSA	Nutrition Society of Australia
PN	Practicing Nutritionist
RPN	Registered Practicing Nutritionist

5. APPLICATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT

The code of conduct applies to the endorsement of Nutrition Practice by Nutritionists who are members of AARPN.

6. CODE OF ETHICS

All AARPN members will:

- 6.1 Endeavour to achieve positive nutrition outcomes for the individual and wider community.
- 6.2 Respect confidential information relating to a client's personal and medical information in accordance with the relevant country/state/territory policy such as for Australian practitioners (Please refer to 'AHPRA privacy policy')
<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/news/2014-03-21-privacy-policy.aspx>
- 6.3 Engage in respectful behaviour while acting as an RNP on diverse platforms (such as private practice, on web, conferences and meetings) towards clients, public, and peers and refrain from contrary remark/discussion/ upon the competence and integrity of members of AARPN that may place Nutrition Practice in disrepute.
- 6.4 Respect and acknowledge all allied health practitioners.
- 6.5 Maintain safe work environment at the place of practice for managing work health and safety risks in accordance with the 'code of practice' outlined by Safe Work Australia
<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/>
or relevant country/state/territory guidelines, for example:
<https://worksafe.govt.nz/>
<https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/>
- 6.6 Declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest. Conflicts may be but are not limited to actual or potential, financial or personal or sexual (*Refer to section 11 of code of conduct*).
- 6.7 Display all relevant certificates and degrees demonstrating practicing status and level of training competency at the place of practice (for example: doctorate, postgraduate degree, graduate degree/post graduate diploma, NSA registration, AARPN's registration and TGA Schedule 1 Exemption Certificate).
- 6.8 Are proactive and accountable for their decision making while acting as a RNP and have a moral and legal obligation for the provision of evidence-based Nutrition Practice.
- 6.9 Responsibly report any unsafe and inadequate professional conduct and support peers who appropriately notify the relevant authorities of any such practices.
- 6.10 Recognise scope of Nutrition Practice and respect expertise of other allied professionals and provide referrals wherever appropriate.
- 6.11 Acknowledge and refer to original contributors (of research, facts) in their oral or web

presentation and marketing material.

- 6.12 Refrain from establishing a sexual relationship with a client during the period of care as per the Medical Board of Australia guidelines.

<https://www.medicalboard.gov.au/codes-guidelines-policies/sexual-boundaries-guidelines.aspx>

Ensure that there is a reasonable gap before initiating any relationship with a former client. Any approaches of a sexual nature by a client must be declined and documented in the client's record. Ensure appropriate informed consent prior to any patient contact within the consultation.

- 6.13 Practice non-discriminatory and non-judgemental service irrespective of age, colour, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race, and mental or physical status.

- 6.14 Respect the right of the client to make informed choices regarding their health care (*Refer to section 9 of code of conduct*).

- 6.15 Use your own current health fund provider number.

- 6.16 Refrain from using false, misleading or incorrect information and follow appropriate documentation policy (*Refer to section 5.2 of code of conduct*).

- 6.17 Accept responsibility for personal psychological and physical well-being as it may affect professional ability (*Please refer to section 4 of code of conduct*).

- 6.18 Not to undertake any patient treatment whilst professional judgement is potentially impaired due to the effects of fatigue, illness, medicine or any lawful or unlawful substance.

- 6.19 Abstain from using AARPN accreditation for any other modality for which they are not accredited.

- 6.20 Ensure to provide nutrition advice to a child (<16 years within Australia and as per your country/state/territory legislation) only in the presence/consent of a parent or any legal guardian.