

NCIMS's CODE OF ETHICS

The following Code of Ethics adopted by the North Carolina Integrative Medical Society (NCIMS) are not laws, but standards of conduct that define the essentials of honorable behavior for the Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAM) member medical practitioners.

A NCIMS member shall:

1. Recognize responsibility to patients first and foremost and safeguard patient confidences and privacy within the constraints of the law;
2. Be dedicated to providing competent medical care with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights, seeking to optimize treatment outcomes;
3. Uphold the standards of professionalism, be honest in all professional interactions, and report medical practitioners lacking competency, or engaged in fraud, abuse or deception to the appropriate entities;
4. Recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to the improvement of the CAM scientific knowledge and the improvement of public health;
5. Respect the law while recognizing a responsibility to seek changes in requirements which are contrary to the best interests of the patient or limit access to a choice of medical care;
6. Respect the rights of patients, colleagues, and other health professionals;
7. Continue to study, apply, and advance CAM scientific knowledge, maintain a commitment to medical education, make scientifically-based information available to patients, colleagues, and the public, consult other health professionals when indicated;
8. In the provision of appropriate patient care, except in emergencies, be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate, and the environment in which to provide medical care;
9. Associate with organizations to the advance of the knowledge and quality of CAM profession and contribute time and funds to implement the work of the organizations; and
10. Assess the quality of the compounding pharmacy use for patient services.

INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES UTILIZED BY NCIMS MEMBERS

The 25 most common conditions treated by Integrative Physicians – Many patients seek a holistic approach to medical care. Some patients have exhausted conventional routes of evaluation and treatment. This is not in order of frequency seen.

1. Fatigue and malaise
2. Intestinal infections (yeast, parasites, small intestine bacterial overgrowth, dysbiosis)
3. Nutritional deficiencies or imbalances (vitamins, minerals, fatty acids, amino acids)
4. Digestive complaints (Irritable Bowel Syndrome, constipation, flatulence, bloating, gas pain, heartburn, esophageal reflux)
5. Sleep disturbances
6. Memory disturbances
7. Depression, anxiety, and mood disorders
8. Neurodegenerative disorders (Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, MS)
9. Hyperlipidemia (blood lipid imbalances)
10. Hypertension

11. Circulatory disorders (cardiovascular disease, coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, carotid artery disease, cerebrovascular)
12. Weight management (obesity, overweight, unexplained weight loss, inability to gain weight)
13. Tick-borne illness (Lyme disease, Bartonella, Babesia, etc.). Note Lyme is musculoskeletal, neurological, and cardiac.
14. Headache (migraine, tension headache, etc.)
15. Musculoskeletal disorders (arthritis, fibromyalgia, TMJ, etc.)
16. Autoimmune disease (rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, multiple sclerosis, thyroiditis)
17. Allergies – environmental, food
18. Chronic respiratory disorders (asthma, bronchitis, COPD)
19. Diabetes, borderline diabetes, or abnormal fasting blood sugar, such as hypoglycemia, Syndrome X
20. Osteoporosis, osteopenia, and other disorders of calcium metabolism
21. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's, Ulcerative Colitis)
22. Medical symptoms associated with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ADHD, autism, etc.)
23. Male and female hormone disturbances (estrogen, progesterone, testosterone, growth hormone)
24. Hypothyroidism or borderline hypothyroidism)
25. Adrenal disorders (low adrenal function, adrenal exhaustion, hyper-adrenalism)