

Standards of Professional Responsibility for Certified Health Physicists

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- Ethics - Are they just a popular current buzz word?
- “Fecafoot said....it had instructed its *ethics* committee to open an investigation into....’seven bad apples’ on the....team at the World Cup.”



Ethics

- The study of standards of conduct and moral judgment.
- The system of morals of a particular person, religion, group, etc.

Webster's New World Dictionary

Ethical Schools of Thought

- Consequentialism – Decisions based on the consequences or outcomes of a given act
- Deontology – Decisions based on individual motives and morals rather than consequences
- Virtue Ethics – Focuses on the use of practical wisdom for emotional & intellectual problem solving

Ethical Models

- Engineering Model
- Paternal or Priestly Model
- Collegial Model
- Contractual Model
- Covenantal Model

Professional Ethics

- A branch of philosophy dealing with values pertaining to human conduct, considering the rightness and wrongness of actions and the goodness or badness of the motives and ends of such actions.
- Systematic rules or principles governing right conduct. Each practitioner, upon entering a profession, is invested with the responsibility to adhere to the standards of ethical practice and conduct set by the profession.

Abiding by good ethical standards leads to
TRUST of the person and the organization or
profession to which they are affiliated.

Unethical behavior and practices lead to
DISTRUST of the person and anything and
anyone with whom they are associated.

Professional Ethics

- Doctors
- Lawyers
- Engineers
- Accountants
- Politicians
- Health Physicists

Industry Organizations

- Nuclear Power Plant Exporters' – Principles of Conduct
 - Signed by 11 nuclear power companies
- International Atomic Energy Agency
 - For Example – “Ethical Principles Behind Environmental Remediation” (NW-T-3.5)

Health Physics Society

Code of Ethics for the Members of the Health
Physics Society

Certified Health Physicists

Standards of Professional
Responsibilities for CHPs

Certified Health Physicists

These principles are the standards of professional responsibility for CHPs. By applying for and achieving certification, the Certified Health Physicist recognizes and assumes the following responsibilities.

The Certified Health Physicist (CHP) shall:

- Support and Improve the Profession of Health Physics
- Provide Technical Competence
- Act in the Public Interest
- Maintain High Standards in Dealing with Others

Support and Improve the Profession of Health Physics

- The CHP shall support the purposes of the American Academy of Health Physics (the Academy).
- The CHP shall endeavor to advance the Health Physics profession by sharing information and experience with others and by contributing to the work of professional associations, schools, and the professional, scientific, and technical press.
- The CHP shall not act in a manner that may bring the profession or the Academy into disrepute.

Provide Technical Competence

- The CHP shall remain active in the field, strive to improve his/her professional knowledge, and endeavor to be aware of contemporary scientific, technical, and regulatory developments.
- The CHP shall practice only in areas of his/her expertise.
- The CHP shall practice his/her profession following recognized scientific principles.

Provide Technical Competence cont.

- The CHP shall counsel affected parties factually regarding potential health risks and precautions necessary to avoid adverse health effects.
- The CHP should accept opportunities to increase public understanding of radiation protection and the purposes of the Academy.

Act in the Public Interest

- The CHP shall have due regard for the safety and health of the public and of individuals who may be affected by his/her work.
- The CHP shall not undertake any employment or consultation that is contrary to law.
- The CHP shall not compromise public welfare and safety in favor of a private interest.

Maintain High Standards in Dealing with Others

- The CHP shall maintain the highest standards of integrity and fairness in his/her professional interactions with employers, colleagues, workers, clients, government agencies, and the general public.
- The CHP shall not attempt to falsely injure the reputation of any person.
- The CHP shall protect the sources and content of confidential communications or other confidential personal or business information obtained in the course of his/her practice, provided that such protection is not itself unethical or illegal.

Maintain High Standards in Dealing with Others cont.

- Without the knowledge and consent of his/her client, the CHP shall not accept or offer commissions, allowances, or finder's fees, directly or indirectly, from contractors or other parties dealing with the client.
- The CHP shall avoid circumstances where a compromise of professional judgment or conflict of interest may arise.
- The CHP shall not knowingly take credit for the work of others and shall give credit where it is due.

AAHP Encouragement at Renewal

- I acknowledge that I understand and accept the statement of Standards of Professional Responsibility for CHPs.
- By my signature below, I verify that as a Certified Health Physicist I will fulfill these responsibilities and, to provide additional assurance that I remain professionally competent, I agree to meet the requirements for continuing certification established by the Board.

AAHP Encouragement

Joyce P. Davis Memorial Award

- ...her dedication to the advancement of health physics and her humanitarian efforts to uphold the ethics of the profession.
- ...for excellence in professional achievement as well as being admired for ethical behavior and interpersonal skills.

AAHP Encouragement

Professional Standards and Ethics
Committee

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Should additional steps be taken by
AAHP regarding ethical standards?