

## **CERTIFIED CLINICAL NUTRITIONIST (CCN)**

### **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist must both individually and collectively, maintain a high level of professional and ethical conduct and relationship with clients, colleagues, members of allied health professions, and the public.
- As clinical nutrition is a specialization in the science of nutrition, the Certified Clinical Nutritionist must be competent to work in the health care system with other professionals to make available expertise in the field of clinical nutrition.
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist must have an understanding of nutrition biochemistry that enables him/her to competently assess and evaluate signs of nutritional deficiency or imbalance, through the use of or disuse of specific foods, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, or other food substances as necessary to maintain optimal health
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist must be trained to interpret and utilize certain noninvasive laboratory and nonlaboratory tests and other evaluation techniques designed to assist in nutritional assessment
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist, unless licenses pursuant to the Medical Practices Act of any state in the United States, shall not practice medicine, which means the diagnosis, treatment, operation or prescription for any disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other physical or mental condition.
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist will not hesitate to seek consultation with other professionals whenever advisable or requested by the client. If at any time the member believes that a client will be better served by a medical practitioner or another method of practice, the client will be referred immediately.
- All information concerning clients shall be kept in strictest confidence, and shall be divulged only when required by law or when authorized by the client.
- Honesty and integrity shall characterize all conduct with clients as clinical nutrition is a profession deserving of respect, honor, and dignity. Misleading, deceptive, irresponsible or fraudulent statements or advertising or otherwise are deemed unethical and shall not be condoned in any form.
- Every profession has the responsibility to regulate itself, to determine and judge its own members. Such regulation is achieved largely through the requirements of certification boards and through the influence of professional societies. Every practicing professional has the dual obligation of following the directives of the Clinical Nutrition Certification Board (CNCB), as well as becoming a part of a professional society and of observing its rules and ethics.
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist shall abide by all laws and regulations pertaining or relating to the practice of clinical Nutrition.
- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist shall not knowingly solicit the client of another nutritionist.

- In any dispute between or among Certified Clinical Nutritionist, involving ethical or professional matters that relate to the certification status of either party, the matter in controversy will be referred to the CNCB Judicial Committee.

- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist may accept or reject a particular client, bearing in mind that whenever possible, a response should be made to any reasonable request for his/her services. Once a client is accepted, a duty is owed not to neglect, abandon or withdraw from the relationship. A provider may withdraw from the relationship only if he/she believes 1) that the client's needs exceed his/her skills and/or abilities, 2) a request is made to act illegally, immorally or unethically in the performance of professional services, 3) an irreconcilable or unhealthful conflict in personality exists between the client and a provider.

- Any fee charged by a practicing Certified Clinical Nutritional shall be reasonable and customary, or shall be agreed upon in advance by both the client and the provider. Fees shall compensate for services actually rendered and the division of professional fees shall be deemed appropriate.

- A Certified Clinical Nutritionist will seek to achieve the highest level of professional competence by attendance at CNCB appropriately designated professional seminars, reading professional and scientific literature, and by all other reasonable means to avail him/herself of the latest scientific knowledge, skills and procedures of the profession and shall exercise tolerance toward those ideas and professionals who represent divergent clinical perspectives

- Illegal, unethical or incomplete conducts shall be in violation of the Code which is just cause for proceedings by the Judicial Committee (See CNCB Disciplinary Procedures).

- The enumerations of obligations in this CCN Code of Professional Ethics and Responsibility are not exhaustive and do not constitute a denial of the existence of other obligations, equally imperative, though not specifically mentioned herein.