
Wisconsin Homecare Organization

Code of Ethics

Preamble

The purpose of the Wisconsin Homecare Organization (WHO) is to develop and promote high standards of patient care and business practice in the delivery of home health care services. In the process of bringing essential services to those in need, WHO and its members seek to establish and retain the highest level of public confidence. The provisions of this Code are informational and represent conduct which WHO desires of its members. Professional codes of ethics are statements encompassing rules that apply to persons in professional roles, voluntarily adopted by the group itself.

Purpose

To inform WHO members of acceptable guidelines for ethical conduct for home health agencies and their employees, to inform WHO members that they are expected to abide by all applicable laws and regulations, and to remind WHO members and other home health professionals and agencies that WHO and its members strive for integrity and ethical standards in the provision of home health services.

Professional Standards

WHO members are committed to expanding access to home care services in a cost effective manner and assure quality and continuity of care rendered; upholding professional and community standards of practice and state and federal laws and regulations; providing appropriate services and products commensurate with clients' needs; promoting and supporting optimum independence and a therapeutic environment for clients; promoting respect, confidentiality, courtesy, fairness and professional consideration in relationships with clients and colleagues; respecting and upholding the patient's rights; demonstrating standards of personal and professional integrity; and promoting the health and environmental safety of clients, care givers, and their families.

Relationship to Other Provider Agencies

The principle objective of home care agencies is to provide the best possible service to patients. Agencies shall honestly and consciously cooperate in providing information about referrals and shall work together to assure comprehensive services to patients and their families.

Responsibility to WHO

Members shall participate and contribute talent to foster a dynamic, progressive organization from which all members can benefit professionally. The bylaws and policies of WHO reflect mutual cooperation among members in attaining goals that assure quality of care for the patient and family. The members of WHO shall abide by those bylaws and policies. Agencies which promote their services in the public media shall portray a positive image of home care in general while emphasizing the individual agency's strengths and not competitor's differences.