

## PROFESSIONAL ETHICS ..... A ROAD TO SELF-DISCOVERY Self-Assessment Tool

The NAMSS Code of Professional Conduct sets forth principles that connect the values and ideals of the profession to the work performed by Medical Services Professionals. The Code serves as the standards of minimally acceptable professional conduct for all members of NAMSS. Members accept responsibility to observe and enhance ethical standards, in order to maintain the respect and credibility of the profession. Because the public, the healthcare providers and employers rely on each Medical Services Professional to be a “Leader within this profession”, it is essential to have a keen awareness of one’s own ethics as demonstrated daily through their actions. The following self-assessment is intended to be a useful tool, along this road to improvement, by understanding one’s own ethics.

This assessment is developed to help you identify your areas of strength in ethics and areas you might wish to strengthen. This tool is intended for personal use only, and should not be used to evaluate the behavior of others. There is no scoring mechanism for this assessment, which is intentional. The purpose of this assessment is to cause personal reflection. We are confident that everyone completing this assessment will uncover a few red flags for themselves. We encourage you to seek opportunities to seek out additional educational resources to learn more about professional ethics.

Also, please use this information to initiate discussions with trusted friends and colleagues, as we all function within communities and are affected by those around us. Your willingness to better understand those areas that may be red flags is your key to enhancing your own ethical behaviors

We hope that you will find this assessment useful, as well as stimulating for you in the areas of ethics, and we thank you for taking time to contemplate your personal characteristics.

How to use the self-assessment –Take time to think about each question. Think about your work situations, your community affiliations, and your family dynamics. Once you have completed the entire assessment, review your responses noting those statements for which you answered “occasionally” or “almost never”. Do you conduct yourself differently in the settings noted above, and if so, do you understand why? In some situations, these answers are suitable; however, in other situations such an answer may raise an ethical red flag for further consideration.

For those statements that you answered “never”, carefully review the wording of these statements. Is there a particular portion or phrase of the statement that you focused on? Do you disagree that the statement reflects actions that equate to ethical conduct? Would a discussion about the statement with a trusted colleague perhaps provide you with some insight? Remember, there are no “right or wrong” answers, just thought-provoking statements to challenge yourself!

We hope you find this exercise thought-provoking and helpful. The NAMSS Ethics Committee has additional, valuable resources available to you as you enhance your awareness and knowledge regarding professional ethics. Several of these resources include these sites: *Ethics.org*; *Knowledgeleader.com*; and *Nationalethicsresourcecenter.net*.

Further, the Ethics Committee is interested in using this self-assessment as a tool for collecting aggregated data which might aid in our development of additional resources to meet Members’ needs. If you are willing to provide comments regarding either the effectiveness of this tool or specific educational deficits you identified through this exercise, please feel free to submit those to the NAMSS Executive Office. Any and all comments from Members’ regarding the Ethics Committee’s efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your investment in this important exercise. We hope you found it worthwhile.