

# The 10 Core Values of the Occupational Physician



Nederlandse  
Vereniging voor **nvab**  
Arbeids- en Bedrijfsgeneeskunde

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- 1.** All tasks of the occupational physician are focused on the prevention of occupational diseases and work-related disorders. They aim to promote and preserve sustainable employability of the employee. This is in the interest of the employee, the society he is part of and the company he works for.
- 2.** Good occupational health care is about the reciprocal relationship between work and health. The occupational physician adjusts his care to the specific work situation: tailored care.
- 3.** The occupational physician provides occupational health care from an independent professional position, in which he takes responsibility for the nature and content of his care.
- 4.** Good occupational health care is both preventive and curative. This implies that the employee has free access to such care. His right to privacy is always respected.
- 5.** Good occupational health care requires up-to-date knowledge and therefore regular assessment of the working conditions.

6. Managers and representatives of employees have access to the occupational physician, and vice versa.
7. Good occupational health care, if indicated, requires cooperation with or referral to other experts both inside and outside the company and the health care system.
8. Good occupational health care meets legal frameworks and the evidence-based guidelines and standards as established by the profession. Every occupational physician knows these frameworks, guidelines and standards. Medical confidentiality is always respected.
9. Good occupational health care implies a good occupational physician: he is trained and registered based on the requirements described in the professional competence profile (CanMEDS).
10. Good occupational health care is provided according to the agreements with the employee's company. Such agreements do not interfere with the ten core values. The occupational physician is responsible for testing the agreements against these core values.

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The Netherlands Society of Occupational Medicine (NVAB) started in 1946 as a separate section of the Association of Public Health and was officially founded in 1953. Nowadays about 90% of the occupational physicians in The Netherlands is NVAB-member. One of NVAB's goals is enhancement of the scientific basis of occupational health practice and improvement of the professional quality of occupational physicians.