

CODE OF ETHICS

General Purpose of the Code of Ethics

To highlight the fundamental moral commitment of the nursing profession.

To inform the community the values which nurses hold.

To provide guideline for nurses in the ethical consideration of nursing practice.

1. Value Statement One (1) Relating to Clients

Nurses respect patients and clients as individuals and groups with rights, needs and values and must be provided services with respect for human dignity, unrestricted by cultural, religious, socio-economic, ethnic, political differences and health status.

Explanatory Statement

1. Nursing care for any individual or group should not be compromised because of ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, socio-economic, health status or any other ground.
2. Respect for a person's need includes recognition of the individual's place in a family and community and participation of significant others in his/her care. Caring includes the provision of helping services which are appropriate to the needs of the clients and significant others.
3. Respect for person's needs, beliefs and values includes culturally sensitive care and the provision of as much comfort, dignity, privacy, alleviation of pain and consoling of grieving or dying individual/family.
4. Respect includes the development of confidence and trust in the relationship between nurses and the people for whom they care.
5. Where personal information is required for teaching, research or other purposes, protection of the person's anonymity and privacy must be ensured and consent obtained.
6. Respect the rights of persons to make informed choices about their care.
7. Recognise the need for individuals or groups to receive the information concerning health care from doctors, nurses and other health professionals.
8. Encourage and support individuals or groups in decision making that respect their right and beliefs about treatment.
9. Protect the rights of individuals and groups.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of the rights of individuals and groups in health care setting.
11. Recognise when policies or practice impinge in the rights of individuals or groups.
12. Nurses safeguard the clients' rights to privacy by ensuring confidentiality of information.

2. Value Statement Two (2) Relating to Nursing Practice

Nurses promote and uphold the practice of quality nursing care.

Explanatory Statement

1. Quality nursing care includes holistic care provided by appropriately qualified and competent nurses.
2. Promotion of quality nursing care includes valuing of continuing education as a means of maintaining and increasing knowledge and skills.
3. Promote and maintain high standard of care through continual monitoring and evaluation of nursing practice.
4. Research is necessary for the development of nursing practice.
5. Nurses demonstrate honesty, dedication, accountability, and reliability in the provision of quality nursing care.
6. The nurse maintains competence in nursing

3. Value Statement Three (3) Relating to Nursing Profession

Nurses value their nursing responsibilities and practice as consistent with the obligations of the profession and development of quality in nursing care.

Explanatory Statement

1. The nurse participates in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the professional body of knowledge and self-development.
2. The nurse participates in the profession's effort to implement and improve standards of nursing.
3. The nurse participates in the profession's efforts to establish and maintain conditions of employment conducive to high quality nursing care.
4. The nurse participates in the profession's effort to provide safety for the public from misinformation, misrepresentation, malpractice, negligence and to maintain the integrity of nursing.
5. Promote continuing education throughout her/his nursing practice.
6. Accept responsibility for their own development.
7. Demonstrate initiatives in the regular update of current knowledge and skills.

4. Value Statement Four (4) Relating to Co-Workers

Nurses must collaborate with other health workers in the provision of comprehensive health care.

Explanatory Statement

1. As independent and inter-dependent agent, nurses have moral obligations in the provision of nursing care.
2. Nurses participate with other health care providers recognising the perspective and expertise of each team member.
3. Nurses may question/intervene any conduct or practices from co-workers or any person which may appear incompetent, unprofessional, unethical or illegal.

4. The nurse collaborates with members of health professions and other citizens in promoting community and national efforts to meet health needs of the public.
5. The nurse acts to protect the client and the public when health care and safety are affected.
6. The nurse assumes responsibility and accountability for individual nursing judgements and actions.

5. Value Statement Five (5) Relating to Society and Environment

Nurses value the promotion of ecological, socio-economic status, clean and healthy environment that supports and sustains health and well-being in society

Explanatory Statement

1. Nurses acknowledge that the social environment in which people reside has an impact on their health. In collaboration with other health professionals and consumers, nurses acknowledge the multi-sectoral approach necessary in enlisting support or action to attain or maintain safe and healthy environment.
2. Nurses value participation in the development implementation and monitoring of policies and procedures which promote safe and efficient use of resources.
3. Nursing includes involvement in the detection of ill-effects of the environment of the health of persons, the ill-effects of human activities in their actions to minimize these effects.
4. Nurses act to promote self-reliance in people and healthy living.