

Code of Ethics for the Nursing Profession

The Order of Nurses in Lebanon

The General Ethical principles that Apply to Nursing Care

The four main responsibilities of the nurse are: Health promotion, disease prevention, rehabilitation and reduction of suffering.

The need for nursing care is essential in that it concerns humanity. Basic tenets to the nursing profession include respect for human rights, including the right to live, human dignity, respect of others. These beliefs hold for individuals regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, culture, age group, gender, or socio-political affiliation.

The nurse provides care of the individual, family and community, and is an active member of the health care team. The nursing profession is believed to participate in health decision making and the making of national policy, thus specialized programs to promote the quality of nursing care are required to promote the status of the profession.

The nurse and the individual

The nurse is responsible to provide nursing care to people with health care needs that are of high quality and in line with developments in the profession and the health field in general.

In his/her scope of practice, the nurse ensures respecting the values, beliefs and habits of the individual, and plans the nursing care in an individualized manner that takes into consideration the person's characteristics and particular needs.

The nurse provides health education to help the individual adapt with his/her altered health condition and ensure his/her independence, while taking into consideration his/her social context that might influence one's health. Nurses must respect the client and protect his/her rights for information about his/her condition, needed health care, disclosure of confidential information, protection from harm or any form of exploitation. The nurse is committed to protection of clients' confidentiality and would not share information except within the professional limits and using wise judgment.

The nurse and nursing practice

In practice, the nurse sets priorities of care for individuals. The nurse assumes personal responsibility for providing the highest level of care within the available resources. She/he is also responsible for continuing education, updating knowledge and developing clinical competence.

The nurse is responsible to know the boundaries of his/her competence and qualification when accepting professional responsibilities and must be aware of the qualifications and competence of colleagues to whom he/she delegates tasks.

While practicing, the nurse's demeanor must be consistent with professional ethics; the nurses' personality, attire, professional behavior and understanding of her/his role promote his/her professional image. The nurse must not deviate from the requirements of

honesty, professional dignity and must respect the Order of Nurses in Lebanon and not be subjected to disciplinary measures.

The nurse must carry the documented medical order wisely, and must clarify the data in any situation deemed necessary.

The nurse must provide for the continuity of care in practice.

The nurse must respect and ensure that safety standards of nursing care are followed, such as in hygiene and standard precautions to protect from dangers.

In order to provide the highest level of nursing care, the nurse ought to continue his/her professional education and development.

The nurse and society

The nurse shares with citizens the responsibility to take the initiative and strategies to meet their social and health needs for a healthy society.

The nurse has an important role in social life through health education and raising public awareness in the community regarding health issues.

The nurse is responsible to secure the confidence and respect for her profession in society. He/she also participates with responsible authorities in setting health policies at the national level and actively participates in health development, which is basic to social development.

The nurse and the health team

The nurse maintains a strong professional relationship with members of the health with whom he/she collaborates in providing health care and commits not to colleagues in nursing or allied health professions.

The nurse is responsible to take necessary measures to protect the individual in case he/she receives treatment from a member of the health team that may endanger him/her.

The nurse and the profession

The nurse plays an essential role in defining and applying the principles and required levels in nursing education and practice. The nurse also participates in the development of nursing knowledge.

Through her role in professional organizations, the nurse participates in setting fair socio-economic work conditions for the profession and attempts to maintain those conditions and promote them.

Based on professional ethics, the nurse must be able to practice regardless of material or moral pressures. The nurse is not allowed to perform any activity that is in conflict with the nursing profession or that undermines its value.

The nurse is personally responsible for the nursing activities she/he performs and through that:

1. Protection of society from those who practice nursing but do not have the needed education and clinical competence.
2. Raising public health awareness in society and correcting unhealthy practices and practicing nursing based on scientific principles.

3. Not exploiting professional knowledge in illegal activities
4. Not doing any activities that could harm the image of the nursing profession in society.
5. Participation in scientific research to develop nursing science.
6. Participation with colleagues in the health profession in development of clinical competencies to provide safe practice.
7. Refusing any action that is against the law or professional ethical principle
8. Refusing gifts from patients and parents for provision of more attention, and refusing agreements to share profits or exploitation.
9. Not using the place of employment to market products or medical services or act in a manner that is harmful to the nursing profession, or using a logo other than that of nursing
10. Respecting and implementing all decisions of the Order of Nurses and building very good relationships with professional colleagues and complying with the recommendations of the Order's general assembly, and not making any conflicts between nurses and others public before reporting to the Council of the Order, as well as not submitting any complaint before consulting with the council of the Order first.
11. Not giving any information to the media about the profession without prior approval of the Order, and also not sharing conflicts with the media.
12. The nurse must take responsibility of the clients under his/her care and should not delegate their care to unlicensed personnel
13. The nurse registered in the order must not create or be a member of any other Order except associations that do not have a conflict of interest with that of the Order of Nurses
14. The nurse under all circumstances must show honor, honesty and respect especially to the president of the Order, Council members, professional colleagues and those who are older than him/her. The nurse must treat colleagues based on mutual trust and respect and refrain from criticism in front of others.
15. The nurse must not overtake an activity assigned to another without coordinating with him/her in order to preserve his/her dignity, material and moral interests. The nurse must not allege to having specializations that are not documented in his/her diplomas. In brief, the nurse must be a role model in society to give a superior image of the profession and its ethics.

Bibliography

ICN code of ethics

ANC code of ethics for nurses in Australia

The order of nurses and midwives-guide to professional ethics in Jordan (1996)