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Credit: Ivan-balvan / iStock / Getty Images PlusThe American Nurses are confronted with
more complex health-related decisions, which require a strong code of ethics as a foundation for care. When faced with a professional ethical dilemma, where do you turn? The Code of Ethics for Nurses outlines nursing responsibilities and provides a foundation for the profession. These codes help nurses fulfill their professional obligations and support
their practice. Let's explore the provisions within the Code, how you can use them, and how they shape your nursing practice. Learn More About Our PartnersTo practice with integrity, nurses must follow key elements that guide the profession. This includes a rigorous system for licensure, accreditation for education, and a code of ethics relevant to
current practice. A foundational code of ethics helps practicing nurses remember that patients have unique backgrounds with different cultural needs, which requires withholding judgment to ensure all patients receive quality care. Key examples of how ethics impacts nurses daily include confidentiality, holistic treatment, advocacy, accountability,
and equality. Initially, there was no formalized code of ethics, and most nurses relied on Gretter's Nightingale Pledge, which is similar to the Hippocratic Oath used in medicine. In 1926, the American Nurses Association (ANA) suggested an outline of ethical behavior framed in terms of relationships between colleagues, patients, and medicine. A
Tentative Code was published in 1940, and the first formal code was adopted in 1950. In 1968 the code was revised to help nurses interpret the provisions, which were also reduced from 17 to 10. In the following years, the code has been revised and expanding
into advanced practice roles. The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses has nine provisions and support statements. It addresses four main principles of ethics: autonomy, justice, beneficence, and nonmaleficence. The provisions assert the ethical and moral foundation of the nurse practices with compassion and respect for the
inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. The nurse for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice.
makes decisions, and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth. The nurse,
through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that support safe, quality healthcare. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the initiation of both
nursing and health policy. The nurse collaborates with other health profession of nursing, collectively through its profession, and integrate principles
of social justice into nursing and health policy. The ANA's Code of Ethics for Nurses is designed to guide decision-making and assist clinical nurses in their roles within the healthcare system. The Code of Ethics is not a legal requirement mandated by law, but healthcare facilities and institutions typically incorporate its principles into their policies and
procedures. Nurses are expected to follow these principles as a matter of professional integrity and commitment to patients have the right to make health-related decisions based on their beliefs and values, practicing an autonomy that could conflict with care guidelines or recommendations that healthcare professionals believe are
best. So, if a patient chooses not to receive treatment, healthcare professionals must respect this decision, and nurses must advocate on their patient's behalf. Nurses must clearly understand the ethical principles that guide their profession and recognize their own moral and ethical foundation. There can be situations where nurses may perceive a
conflict between the Code of Ethics and the practical realities of patient care. In such situations, nurses are encouraged to make the best ethical decision for patient well-being. There is a need for ethics in every aspect of our lives, including our careers. But for some professions, such as nursing, ethics are essential due to the life-and-death
responsibilities of healthcare providers. It is not just patients affected by the decisions nurses make, but also their families, for the rest of their lives. Ethics is a vital part of the nursing profession. Nurses are expected to adhere to the ethical principles set forth by their professional organizations and those that govern the laws in their state. As per
the American Nurses Association, the nursing code of ethics "allows nurses to carry out their responsibilities in a manner consistent with ethical obligations and high standards of nursing care." Ethics is a broad topic for any profession, but it's essential in nursing. In this blog post, We will explore why ethics is important in nursing and how they can
make ethical decisions that benefit their patients. this ... Sometimes, nurses face situations in the workplace that challenge their ethical standards. For example, a nurse may be asked to compromise professional ethics to save lives. The National Council for State Boards of Nursing has outlined guidelines that nurses should follow when presented
with these situations. Ethics is the code of moral principles that guide people's behavior and decisions about what is morally right or wrong. Ethics serves as a compass through difficult circumstances and helps shape how we live our life every day. By following ethical standards set by society, laws, organizations, and employers, not just nursing
boards, nurses can help maintain integrity while providing quality care for patients who need it most. Ethics can be broken down into three distinct parts Moral ethics: It is about behaving in your workplace and
what decisions are acceptable or unacceptable. Legal ethics: Are concerned with federal and state statutes governing patient care. Practical ethics: It refers to the decision-making process when there is no clear answer for which action should be taken next because all options have pros and cons associated with them. Nurses must
maintain their integrity by following some essential steps that will help them respond appropriately to these situations where the moral code might be unclear. Follow legal requirements of nursing boards, employers, and professional organizations, as well as laws set forth by society. Even though this may not always seem like an easy answer, it
protects you legally and provides peace of mind down the line if there was ever suspicion on why you followed specific actions such as an order or a rule. Consider the patients' wishes and goals in light of their values, cultural perspective, age, spiritual beliefs, and other factors specific to them. You should also consider legal requirements for
healthcare providers when providing your opinion on what is best for the patient. This includes informed consent, which means sharing information with procedures so they can make educated choices. Patients have rights as well, and these are taken into consideration during ethical decision-making processes by
nurses. Still, there could be cases where some actions violate those rights, such as euthanasia, while it might seem like the most humane way out for someone who has gone through medical treatments unsuccessfully in the past. Most Nurses face challenges almost every day. They are in the position of being carring, knowledgeable, and responsible
for a person's health. Here are situations nurses face almost every day: Obtain informed consent: The nurse must be informed about the patient's condition and understand what they are consenting for. Careful documentation: The Nurse needs a thorough understanding of how health information is stored to protect it from misuse, misinterpretation,
or erroneous use; Reporting adverse events/situations: Nurses must say any problems that may have been caused by their actions or those of others. This includes but not limited to medication errors and unsafe practices while carring for patients; Maintaining confidentiality: Sometimes, nursing staff needs access to personal records such as HIV
status (a person can't tell their doctor without telling the whole world). So people who work with these records especially nurses always act as role models for others working with
patients by treating them like family members or friends and protecting privacy through confidentiality codes. Ethics is essential when you want competent nurses who deliver care that meets standards set by organizations, including the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the National Patient Safety
Foundation (NPSF). Ethics also provides an opportunity to teach these values to new students entering into a nursing profession which may not come from families where ethics were taught at home. This sets up the students entering into a nursing profession which may not come from families where ethics were taught at home. This sets up the students entering into a nursing profession which may not come from families where ethics were taught at home.
moral obligations, one to the patient and another to society. Nurses must act accordingly in these situation where they are obligated by law not to testify about something illegal or unethical. Still, if they don't do so, then it could harm other people who need
treatment because of what happened at the hospital. A nurse might also incur legal liability themselves if they were involved with what happened. For example, helping someone commit suicide is illegal under some circumstances, or falsifying documents such as death certificates without consent from the next of kin when nobody has been found yet
The other conflict is when a nurse has to provide evidence against someone else in their care or even refuse treatment that the hospital might be obligated to give by law. Confidentiality A nursing professional is required by law and ethics codes of conduct not to disclose any information about the patient unless they have consent from at least one
person authorized. This could include anything like diagnosis, prognosis, previous treatments, and another medical history. They are also expected to protect this confidentiality even after the individual stops being under his/her care because it can still cause harm if people know specific facts without knowing what happened firsthand. Summary: As
nurses, you have a responsibility to uphold our values and ethical standards. If you're struggling with a moral dilemma in your day-to-day nursing life, remember that many resources are available for help. The most important thing is prioritizing what's best for the patient when it comes down to it. As a library, NLM provides access to scientific
literature. Inclusion in an NLM database does not imply endorsement of, or agreement with, the contents by NLM or the National Institutes of Health. Learn more: PMC Disclaimer | PMC Copyright Notice . 2013 Jan 1;42(Supple1):1-8. Nurses are ever-increasingly confronted with complex concerns in their practice. Codes of ethics are fundamental
guidance for nursing as many other professions. Although there are authentic international code would be the additional assistance provided for clinical nurses in their complex roles in care of patients, education, research and management of some parts of health care system in the country. A national code can
provide nurses with culturally-adapted guidance and help them to make ethical decisions more closely to the Iranian-Islamic background. Given the general acknowledgement of the need, the National Code of Ethics for Nurses was compiled as a joint project (2009-2011). The Code was approved by the Health Policy Council of the Ministry of Health
and Medical Education and communicated to all universities, healthcare centers, hospitals and research centers early in 2011. The focus of this article is on the code will be also presented here. No doubt, development of the codes should be
considered as an ongoing process. This is an overall responsibility to keep the codes current, updated with the new progresses of science and emerging challenges, and pertinent to the nursing practice. Keywords: Nursing ethics, Ethical code, Healthcare ethics, Professionalism, Patient's right Nurses are responsible to provide their clients/patients
with the high-quality care. They are undoubtedly confronted with various ethical challenges in their professional practice, so they should be familiar with ethical codes of ethics have been adopted for many professions in recent decades. In nursing, as one the most-trusted professions
the ethical codes have been also published by nearly every recognized professional group worldwide. The first international code of ethics for nurses was adopted by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 1953 (1). The two codes prepared by American Nurses Association (ANA) (2) and Canadian Nurse Association (CAN) (3) are the examples of
national codes of ethics for nurses. The codes outline how the nurses should behave ethically as a profession, and how they should decide when encounter barriers preventing them from fulfilling their professional obligations. The codes can also support nurses in their practice and reduce their moral distress. In Iran, studies have shown nurses'
weaknesses in the knowledge of ethics and its application in practice (4, 5). In a qualitative study carried out by Negarandeh et al, the nurses identified "lack of code of ethics" as a barrier to patient advocacy in Iran (6). Sanjari et al, also, reviewed nursing codes of ethics and emphasized the necessity of compiling a national code of ethics for nurses
in healthcare setting in 2008 (7). They suggested an adapted code considering cultural context and Islamic background of the country, the National Code of Ethics
for Nurses was prepared under supervision of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME). It is expected that the Code will serve the interests and needs of the profession more efficiently, since it illustrate moral and profession more efficiently, since it illustrate moral and profession more efficiently.
colleagues, management of health care systems, and research activities. The goal of this paper is to provide the nurses with the information about the National Code and help them to apply the provisions in their profession. The manuscript will introduce the main concepts of the recently published codes. The project of "Compiling the National Code of the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with the nurses with the information about the National Code of the nurses with th
Ethics for Nurses" was initiated by the Ethics Group of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Center (EMRC) of Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) in 2009. A working group composed of 3 nurses and one general practitioner prepared the first draft of the code through a study including the wide search of international and national
codes of ethics for nurses in other countries. After compiling the draft, the project was continued as a joint project with Medical Ethics of Health Policy Council of MOHME. At first, the preliminary draft was presented at special
discussion secession at MEHRC and was challenged by professors, researchers and PhD and MPH students of TUMS. According to the discussions held, the draft was revised. Then, a Task Force that was appointed by the Secretariat of High Council for Medical Ethics of Health Policy Council of MOHME actively engaged in the process of reviewing
and modification of the second draft of the code. The Task Force was composed of invited supervisors or head-nurses from main hospitals of TUMS, professors of Faculty of Nursing Organization (INO), Medical Council of Islamic
Republic of Iran, Office of Nursing Advisor to MOHME, Academy of Medical Sciences and Nursing Board of MOHME for evaluation and approval. The code as
the National Code of Ethics for Nurses was delivered in the country in early 2011. The Code is an entirely new document produced for nursing ethics in the country, which was published in Farsi (10). It is also available through the website of MOHME (11). The English version is enclosed here as annex1. The target audience includes all nurses in the
fields of nursing education, research, administrative, and clinical care, in the whole. The National Code defines the values which are comprehensive and Profession", "Nurses and Practice", "Nurses and Co-workers", and "Nursing, and "Nursing, and "Nurses", and "Nurses" and Profession", "Nurses and Practice", "Nurses and Nurses and Nurses and N
Education and Research", including 71 provisions in total. The code sets out the required elements for ethical conduct and empowers nurses to make ethical decisions more perfectly as they perform as clinical nurses, researchers, administrators and policy-makers. It also reminds the nurses of the valuable state of their profession and what they
should attempt to uphold as a nurse in providing direct care to clients/patients, teaching nursing students, performing research, and the supervision and management. As a main general conceptual background of the National code, the patients are not considered as only people who receive the nursing care, and others including the patients' family
and healthy people in the society are considered in the plans and services. Another essence of the Code is that the individual dignity should be respected, regardless of who is receiving the care, or from which nationality, ethnicity, religion, culture, socio-economic class, gender, etc the patient/client is. Meanwhile, under the provisions of the Nationality, religion, culture, socio-economic class, gender, etc the patient/client is.
such as respect to privacy and confidentiality of patients/clients, relationship with colleagues, efficient performance of the professional duties of nurses. Moreover, it elucidates the concern of how the
nurses should communicate with the hospital ethics committee for decision-making when are confronted with ethical cases. Considering the experiences in compiling national ethical codes and guidelines (12-18), the National Code of Ethics for Nurses is developed as a guide for performing nursing responsibilities and the ethical obligations of the
profession. Although there are authentic international codes of ethics for nurses, the national code would be the additional assistance provided for clinical nurses in their complex roles in care of patients, education, research and management of some parts of health care system in the country. Most nurses may be either too busy or exhausted to think
about their behavior in practice. However, accountability through meeting the obligations is essential in nursing which is one the most-trusted professions in all societies. Development of the codes should be considered as an ongoing process, so it is expected that nurses reflect their ideas when they deal with the shortcomings of the codes in their
practice. The inputs will enable authorities to improve the code and pave the way for its effective implementation. The codes should be revised and updated in regular intervals considering reflections from nurses across the country. This is an overall responsibility to keep the codes current, updated with the new progresses of science and emerging
challenges, and pertinent to the nursing practice. Ethical issues (Including plagiarism, Informed Consent, misconduct, data fabrication and/or falsification, double publication and/or submission, redundancy, etc) have been completely observed by the authors. It is noteworthy that, this could not be accomplished without dedication and sincere
contribution of university lecturers, researchers, and experts in the field. The collaborators (excluding the authors) and members of the Task Force are listed (in alphabetical order) as follows: Adibzade A, Ajali A, Alipor A Z, AzimiLolati H, Bararpour F, Biabangardi Z, DehghanNayeri N, Eesazadeh N, Ghadyani MH, Ghasemzadeh N, Ghorbanpour M
Hashemi F, Heidari A, Joudaki K, Joulaie S, Karimi M, Kashaninia Z, Kazemian M, Milanifar AR, Mobasher M, Namazi HR, NazariEshtehardi M, Parsayekta Z, Saber S, Sahebjam S, Salemi S, Shojaee AA, Soufizadeh M, Tafti F, VaskooeKh, YadavarNikravesh M. The representatives of Health Policy council of MOHME, The Institution (Nahad) of
Representative of the Supreme Leaderin TUMS, Medical Ethics and History of Medicine Research Council of Islamic Republic of Iran, Office of Nursing Advisors to MOHME, Academy of Medical Education were among thealth and Medical Education were among the M
members of the Task Force. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest. Nurses have the responsibility that within their career limit, make decisions and act based on their professional values. Values are intrinsically valuable concepts, and can be defined as the basis by which an individual or community selects the criterion of right or
wrong. Taking into account the exalted position of nursing, professional values are determined by qualified associations and our Constitution. As much as the ethical values are in compliance with religious principles, they are universal
and transnational. The most important principles that should be considered in nursing profession are: Respecting the patient/client and preserving human dignity Altruism and sympathy Devotion to professional obligations Accountability, responsibility and conscience Justice in services Commitment to honesty and loyalty Maintaining patient's
privacy, and commitment to confidentiality, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical competence Promote the awareness of professional rules and ethical guidelines, and trust Continuous improvement of scientific and practical rules are also as a scientific and a scientific and a scientific and a scientific and a scientific are also as a scientific and a scientific are also as a scientific and a scientific and a scientific are also as a scientific and a scien
 kindness The Nurse should: 1-1. Make effort for: improvement of community health, prevention of diseases, restoration of health and alleviation of pain and suffering of patients; and consider these as her/his main mission. 1-2. Offer the nursing care regardless of race, nationality, religion, culture, gender, age, socioeconomic status, political
conditions, physical or mental illness, or any other factor; and strive to eliminate injustice and inequality in society. 1-3. Provide the nursing care to client/patient with respect to the human rights while considering; to the extent it is possible; values, socio-cultural traditions, and religious beliefs of patient/client. 1-4. Educate the community in term of
health promotion and disease prevention and consider it as one of his/her most important responsibilities. Nursing care and standard teaching must be presented in a way to fit the culture, beliefs, values and individual's needs. 1-5. Be sensitive to the challenges and ethical issues, in both community and workplace, that could undermine the sanctity of
people with physical disability, mental illness, and so on. 1-8. While have attention to the medical health at the local level, endeavor to achieve the health goals in national and international levels. 1-9. Perform his/her responsibilities, in crises and natural disasters such as war, earthquake, flood, and disease epidemic, while taking the necessary
precautions. The Nurse should: 2-1. Take into account ethical responsibilities, as well as the legal and professional liabilities, when implementing the nursing interventions and making the clinical decisions. 2-2. 2-Whitin the limits of his/her power and duties, attempt to provide a safe and healthy environment for the client / patient. 2-3. Maintain the
 safety of the client / patient by: being on time, efficient performance of the professional duties, and accurate and complete recording of the performed care. 2-4. Provide the best care to the client / patient; based on professional standards which is resulted from valid research and reliable evidence. 2-5. Carry out all the nursing interventions with
respect to the client / patient and his/her family. 2-6. Do his/her maximum effort to conserve patient's confidentiality and privacy, and respect autonomy, and obtain the informed consent. 2-7. Prevent the professional errors of medical team. 2-8. In case of mistake in nursing
interventions, explain honestly to the client / patient, and proceed with truthfulness and fairness in any circumstances. 2-9. Maintain and enhance his/her physical, mental, social, and spiritual abilities. 2-10. Keep his /her knowledge and skills up to date, in order to maintain the professional competence. 2-11. Have the capability and knowledge of
effective and safe nursing care, without direct supervision, and be accountable for his/her actions. 2-12. Perform in a way that nobody could question for commercial advertising of products. 2-14. Avoid the acceptance of any gift or benefit from the
client / patient or their relatives, which may cause any limitation either now or in the future. The Nurse should: 3-1. Introduce him /herself with name, title and his/her professional role to the client / patient. 3-2. Provide all the nursing interventions with respect to the client and preserving their dignity. 3-3. Consider the client / patient.
demands regardless of their age, sex, race, economic status, lifestyle, culture, religion, political beliefs and common sense. 3-5. Produce a gentle behavioral and verbal communication, in a way that with attracting the client/ patient trust, their needs and concerns could
be understood. 3-6. Before performing any nursing interventions, obtain the patient or his/her legal guardian consent. In this regard, the nurse should provide sufficient informed acceptance or rejection of the service. 3-7. When presenting or
applying a new product in clinical practice, have a complete knowledge of its risks. Moreover, provide the client / patient with the necessary informed choice. 3-8. Be aware that no one has the right to consent in place of a competent adult. In case of
children, giving the consent is one of the legal guardian's responsibilities. 3-9. In order to empower the client / patient, educate him/her and their family; in frame of care plan and discharge program. 3-10. As an exception, in case of an emergency, when the immediate therapeutic action is mandatory for saving the client / patient's life, start the
necessary intervention without patient's consent. 3-11. Perform the appropriate intervention based on existing standards and patient's wishes is not possible. 3-12. Apply the safety measures to be sure that nursing interventions are harmless, and when is necessary
consult this matter with other health team members. 3-13. Consider all the information given or obtained during the care process as the professional secrets, and do not reveal them without client / patient only for health related purposes
(treatment, research) and in patient's interest. Inform the client / patient that part of his/ her medical information of the client of his/ her medical information of the result must be done without
mentioning the name, address or any other information that could lead to identification of the patient. 3-16. Respect the patient privacy when performing any nursing intervention. 3-17. When performing the ideal service is unfeasible, continue the health care, in best of his /her ability, until establishment of a new health care program. 3-18. Provide is unfeasible, continue the health care, in best of his /her ability, until establishment of a new health care program. 3-18. Provide is unfeasible, continue the health care program.
the care for injured or patients in emergency situations, even outside the workplace. 3-19. In case of dissatisfaction of the client / patient or other problem, respect their right to change the charged nurse or other health care providers, and as much as possible, try to satisfy the client / patient in this matter. 3-20. In case of noticing a violation of
standards of care, inform the authorities who have sufficient power for improvement of condition. 3-21. Report any objection or problem of patient to the ward supervisor. 3-22. Avoid any action, even in patient's request, that requires ethical, legal or religious violation. 3-23. Assist the patients who spend the last days of their life for accepting the
reality and to appropriately planning of their demands, including performing the religious practices or recording their wills. The Nurse should 4-1. Cooperate with medical team members, the client / patient or legal guardian in making decision
about nursing interventions. 4-3. Share his/her professional knowledge and experience with other colleagues. 4-4. Establish a good relation based on mutual trust, with medical team. 4-5. Have a respectable conduct with other nurses, professors and students. 4-6. In case of any conflict of interest in the care of the client / patient, discuss it with senior
colleagues and the principals, while giving the priority to preserving the clients / patients / rights. 4-7. Establish a respectful professional relationship with co-workers in various levels, including the head nurse, supervisor, nursing director and department heads 4-8. Confronting any ethical challenge, consult the hospital ethics committee for decision-
making. 4-9. Act as a role model for other nurses in all aspects of professional carrier. 4-10. Put his/her maximum efforts into the transfer of legal and ethical information to other nurses in continuous training program. 4-12. When required, consult ethicists, in order to resolve the
ethical problems occur during nursing interventions. 4-13. According to the hierarchy, collaborated with other colleagues, act in line with client / patient's interest. 4-14. With the aim of improving the service quality, do his/her maximum effort to maintain a good working environment and increase professional motivation. 4-15. Behave fairly in the
process of evaluation and promotion of nurses while considering the professional standards and nursing ethics code. 5-1. Nursing professors should employ their maximum efforts to update their scientific, educational and
research environments should be based on professional ethica and mutual respect. 5-3. Nursing professors should make effort to improve students' knowledge and skills, and promote their ethical concerns, in cases of using the patients for educational performance.
purposes. 5-5. Medical services should not be affected if client /patient or their family do not wish to-cooperate in education of the students. 5-6. To improve the healthcare services, who are involved in research, must pass
the specific training courses, have knowledge about the research regulations, and be familiar with national, general, and specific ethical guidelines and be pledged to these regulations. 5-8. Nurses should not use their professional positions to convince the client / patient to participate in the research project. 5-9. Refusal of participation in the
research project by the patient or his/her family should not influence the delivery of the nursing and midwifery students. 1.International Council of Nurses The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses. 2006. Available from: . 2.American Nurses
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courtesy of Tehran University of Medical Sciences Code of Ethics in Nursing is a noble profession that requires a high level of commitment, dedication, and compassion toward patients' rights and dignity. Therefore,
the nursing profession has established a code of ethics in their practice and helps them make ethical decisions in various situations. In this article, we will discuss the importance of the code of ethics in nursing and how it helps nurses provide patient-centered care. A code of ethics in a set of guidelines that outlines the ethical decisions in various situations.
principles and values that govern a particular profession. It provides guidance for nurses in ethical decision-making and helps them uphold their professional responsibilities towards patients, colleagues, and society. The
nursing profession is built on the foundation of professionalism, trust, and respect for patient's rights and dignity. The code of ethics in nursing reasons why the code of ethics in nursing reasons which reasons
being of patients. The code of ethics in nursing emphasizes the importance of patient-centered care, which means that the patient's needs, preferences, and well-being while respecting their autonomy and dignity. Professionalism is a
critical aspect of nursing practice. The code of ethics in nursing outlines the professional standards that nurses must adhere to, such as maintaining confidentiality, providing unbiased care, and being accountable for their actions. Professionalism is essential in building trust between nurses and patients, which is crucial for effective communication,
collaboration, and patient satisfaction. Nurses encounter various ethical dilemmas and situations in their practice, such as end-of-life care, informed consent, and confidentiality. The code of ethics in nursing provides guidance for nurses to make ethical decisions that are in the best interest of the patient and align with the nursing profession's values
and principles. Nurses are expected to assess the situation, gather relevant information, and make informed decisions that prioritize the patient's needs and well-being. The nursing profession is continuously evolving, and nurses are expected to keep up with the latest advancements and best practices in their field. The code of ethics in nursing
emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning, professional development, and critical thinking. Nurses are encouraged to pursue educational opportunities, engage in reflective practice, and seek feedback from colleagues to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competence. In any professional setting or work environment, there are certain ways that
are accepted by the professional body and so is true in nursing too. It is important to study ethics in nursing because: The goal of nursing is to provide care to people with responsibility for making decisions and taking action
regarding health and illness. For example, a nurse feels her best judgment is what the patient needs and not what the patient wants to do. Nurses work in a variety of settings and assume various conflicting situations while working in hospitals and the patient needs and not what the patient needs are not need needs and needs and needs and needs are needs and needs and needs are needs are needs and needs are needs are needs and needs are needs are needs are needs are needs and needs are nee
and communities, where knowledge of ethics will help her/him to resolve the issues. Knowledge of ethics enables the nurse to understand this accountability toward care provided to the patient. The code of ethics in nursing is based on four fundamental ethical
principles: autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, and justice. These principles guide nurses in their practice and decision-making and help them provide ethical and patient's right to make decisions about
their care and treatment. Nurses should respect the patient's autonomy and involve them in the decision-making process as much as possible. This principle also emphasizes the importance of informed consent, where the patient understands the risks and benefits of a particular treatment or procedure before making a decision. Beneficence refers to
the nurse's duty to do good and promote the patient's well-being. It involves taking actions that are intended to benefit others, prevent harm, and promote their welfare. Beneficence is often considered as one of the fundamental principles in medical ethics, where healthcare providers are expected to act in the best interest of their patients and
promote their health and well-being. In other fields, such as business and social work, beneficence may refer to the ethical responsibility to act in ways that promote the best interests of clients, customers, or stakeholders. Non-maleficence means that nurses should not cause harm to the patient and should prevent harm whenever possible. This
principle also includes the obligation to report any errors, mistakes, or incidents that could harm the patient's safety. Justice refers to the fair and equitable distribution of healthcare resources and services. Nurses should advocate for their patients' access to healthcare resources and services. Nurses should advocate for their patients' access to healthcare resources and services. Nurses should advocate for their patients' access to healthcare resources and services.
of ethics in nursing is not just a set of guidelines but also a framework for ethical decision-making in various situations. Nurses encounter ethical dilemmas that require critical thinking, problem-solving, and ethical reasoning. Here are some examples of how nurses can apply the code of ethics in their practice: When obtaining informed consent from a
values. The code of ethics in nursing emphasizes the importance of providing compassionate care, managing pain and symptoms, and promoting the patient's personal and medical information is kept confidential, except when
required by law or for the patient's safety. Nurses are advocates for their patients and should speak up when they notice potential harm or injustice. They should also advocate for their patients and should speak up when their patients are advocates for their patients.
ethical standards and expectations for the professional practice of nurses, and violations of the Code may result in disciplinary action and damage to a nurse's professional
reputation. Overall, the Code of Ethics in Nursing is an essential tool for promoting ethical and responsible for upholding the Code of Ethics in Nursing. The Code is considered a standard of practice and nurses are expected to use it as a guide for ethical decision-making and
conduct in their practice. Professional nursing organizations also have a role in promoting and upholding the Code of Ethics in Nursing, they may face disciplinary action from their employer. The severity of the consequences will depend on the
nature and extent of the violation. Additionally, a violation of the Code of Ethics may damage a nurse's professional reputation and credibility. Ethics are important to the nursing profession. They guide nurses in their practice on a daily basis. They help nurses distinguish between right and wrong when the correct path is unclear. Ethical dilemmas
may arise out of patient care situations or interactions with co-workers. At times, nurses may be asked to do things by other health care providers or employers that are out of their comfort zone. Ethics can also come into play when a nurse is off-duty. Nurses may find themselves in a position to make an ethical choice to provide care to a stranger
 should they come upon a car wreck or should a fellow airplane passenger experience a heart attack. A nurse may not be legally bound to provide care, but may have an ethical decision making skills to determine how they should respond
Nurses may find it necessary to employ ethical decision making as part of the nursing process throughout the day. To aid in ethical decision making, many hospitals. Nurses can use the ethics board as a resource if
they are faced with a situation that calls their personal morals into question. Nurses can also employ ethical reflection may be better prepared while encountering ethical dilemmas on a day to day basis. Nursing
students learn about ethics during the course of their nursing education. Depending on the school, students may choose to write a thesis or dissertation on an ethical component of nursing practice. Students with additional education in ethics will be knowledgeable
about different ethical theories including virtue ethics, ethics of care and deontological ethics. Nurses who are knowledgeable about ethical approach will be most appropriate in a given situation. Professional Organizations and
Nursing Ethics National and international nursing organizations, the International Council of Nurses and American Nurses and American Nurses are also provided by the State Boards of Nursing. While professional ethical codes
vary, common themes include confidentiality, dignity and respect. When ethical guidelines are breached there is a potential for criminal or civil liability depending on the situation. Nurses may also be sanctioned by the State Board of Nursing or be fired by their employer for a breach of ethics. Ethical nursing practice is enhanced through
collaborative discussion at conferences and conventions. The Ethics of Caring collaboration has been stimulating ethical discussions and providing ethical education for nurses and other healthcare providers since 1993. The Ethics in Caring Annual Conference is a multi-disciplinary symposium in the Los Angeles area. Conference attendees can meet
with healthcare providers from across the country and share ethical issues, ideas and dilemmas. Nursing ethics will remain an important aspect of the nursing profession. Ethical hot topics in nursing include assisting in abortions, flu-shot requirements
for nurses and end-of-life issues. Nurses should be familiar with the ethics of the nursing profession, but also be comfortable with their morals
and let ethics guide their decisions will be well equipped to provide patient care. Ethical values are essential for any healthcare provider. Ethics comes from the Greek word "ethos," meaning character. Ethical values are universal rules of conduct that provide a practical basis for identifying what kinds of actions, intentions, and motives are valued.
[1] Ethics are moral principles that govern how the person or a group will behave or conduct themselves. The focus pertains to the right and wrong of actions and encompasses the decision-making process of determining the ultimate consequences of those actions. [2] Each person has their own set of personal ethics and morals. Ethics within
healthcare are important because workers must recognize healthcare dilemmas, make good judgments and decisions based on their values while keeping within the laws that govern them. To practice competently with integrity, nurses, like all healthcare professionals, must have regulation and guidance within the profession.[3] The American Nurses
Association (ANA) has developed the Code of Ethics for this purpose. The onset of nursing ethics can be traced back to the late 19 century. At that time, it was thought that ethics involved virtues such as physician loyalty, high moral character, and obedience. [3] Since that early time, the nursing profession has evolved, and nurses are now part of the
healthcare team and are patient advocates. The first formal Code of Ethics to guide the nursing profession was developed and published by the ANA, it guides nurses in their daily practice and sets primary goals and duties of
every individual who enters the nursing profession. It provides a nonnegotiable ethical standard and is an expression of nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society. The Code of Ethics has been revised over time. The current version represents advances in technology, societal changes, expansion of nursing practice into advanced
practice roles, research, education, health policy, and administration, and builds and maintains healthy work environments. [3] The Code of Ethics for Nurses: Provision 1. The nurse practices with compassion
and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. The nurse must have a high level of respect for all individuals, and allow dignity in regards to dealings in care and communication. It's important that patient's families are also treated with respect for their relationship to the patient. Nurses must understand the
professional guidelines in communications and work with colleagues and patient families. It's important to understand the proper professional relationship that should be maintained with families and patients. All individuals, whether patients or co-workers have the right to decide on their participation in care and work. Provision 2. The nurse's
primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population. The patient to include their individual thought into care practices. Any conflict of interest, whether an individual, family, group, community, or the nurse's
habits or ideals that conflict with the act of being a nurse, should be shared and addressed to not impact patient care is a necessity. Understanding professional boundaries and how they relate to patient care outcomes is important. Provision 3. The nurse promotes, advocates
for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient of all aspects of participation including informed consent and full disclosure to the patient of all aspects required to participate in
the study. The nurse must understand any institutional standards set in place to review his/her performance; this includes measurements of progress and the need for further review or study to meet performance standards. To become a nurse, competence will
continue at institutions and academic organizations that the patient is protected by reporting any misconduct or potential safety concern. And finally, the nurse will not provide patient care while under the influence of any substance that may
impair thought or action, this includes prescription medication. Provision 4. The nurse has authority, accountability for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to provide optimal patient care. As a nurse, it's inherent that accountability for all aspects of care aligns with responsible decision
making. Use of authority must be professional and about all aspects of individualism and patient, ethical concerns. Nursing decisions must be well thought, planned, and purposefully implemented responsibly. Any delegation of nursing activities or functions must be well thought, planned, and purposefully implemented responsibly. Any delegation of nursing activities or functions must be well thought, planned, and purposefully implemented responsibly.
nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth. A nurse must also demonstrate care for self as well as others. An ideal nurse, will have self-regard towards healthcare practices
and uphold safe practice within the care setting and at home. It's important for a nurse to have a high regard for care as an overall inert ability once the profession is entered. A character becoming a nurse would include integrity. Nurses should be concerned for personal growth in regards to continued learning of the profession. The ability to grow as
a nurse with improvements to care, changes or trends in care should be adapted to maintain competence and allow growth of the profession. Provision 6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, guality
health care. As a nursing profession, standards should be outlined within and external to institutions of work that dictate ethical obligations of care and need to report any deviations from appropriateness. It's important to understand safety, quality and environmental considerations that are conducive to best patient care outcomes. Provision 7. The
nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy. Nurse education should include principles of research, and the generation of both nursing and health policy. Nurse education should include principles of research, and each nurse should understand how to apply scholarly work and inquiry into practice standards. Nurse
committees and board memberships are encouraged to contribute to health policy and professional standards. The ability to maintain professional practice may over time. Provision 8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human
rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities. Through collaboration within the discipline, maintaining the concept that health is a right for all individuals will open the channels of best practice possibilities. The nurse understands the obligation to continue to advance care possibilities by committing to constant learning and
preparation. The ability of the nurse to practice in various healthcare settings may include unusual situations that require continued acts of diplomacy and advocacy. Provision 9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its profession, and integrate principles
of social justice into nursing and health policy. Nurses must continue to gather for committees and organize groups where they may share and evaluate values for accuracy and continued political awareness to
maintain the integrity of the nursing profession. The ability of the nurse to contribute to health policy should be shared among the profession, joining nurses throughout the world for a unified voice. American Nurses Association. (2015). Code of ethics with interpretative statements. Silver Spring, MDEthical values are essential for all healthcare
workers. Ethical practice is a foundation for nurses, who deal with ethical issues daily. Ethical dilemmas may, at times, conflict with the Code of Ethics or with the nurse's ethical values. Nurses are advocates for patients and must find a balance while delivering patient care. There are four main
principles of ethics: autonomy, beneficence, justice, and non-maleficence, justice, justice, justice, justice, justice, justic
right to refuse medications, treatment, surgery, or other medical interventions regardless of what benefit may come from it. If a patient chooses not to receive a treatment, minimize harm, and promote good
towards patients.[4] This duty of particular treatment describing beneficence. Healthcare workers demonstrate this by providing a balance of benefits against risks to the patient. Assisting patients with tasks that they are unable to perform on their own, keeping side rails up for fall precautions, or providing medications in a quick and timely manner
are all examples of beneficence. All patients have a right to be treated fair and equally by others. Justice involves how people are treated when their interest competes with others. [5]. A current hot topic that addresses this is the lack of healthcare insurance for some. Another example is with patients in rural settings who may not have access to the
same healthcare services that are offered in metropolitan areas. Patients have a right to no harm. Non-maleficence requires that nurses avoid causing harm to patients have chosen to stop taking medication that can save their lives, the nurse is put in a
morally challenging position. Nurses should know the Code of Ethics within their profession and be aware and recognize their own integrity and moral character. Nurses should have a basic and clear understanding of key ethical principles. The nursing profession must remain true to patient care while advocating for patient rights to self-identify needs
and cultural norms. Ethical considerations in nursing, though challenging, represent a true integration of the art of patient care. Nurses have a responsibility to themselves, their profession, and their patients to maintain the highest ethical principals. Many organizations have ethical considerations in nursing, though challenging, represent a true integration of the art of patients to maintain the highest ethical principals. Many organizations have ethical considerations in nursing, though challenging, represent a true integration of the art of patients to maintain the highest ethical principals.
practice should be involved in ethics review in their targeted specialty area. It is important to advocate for patient rights, and ethical consideration of practice. Ethics inclusion should begin in nursing school and continue as long as the nurse is practice. Ethics inclusion should begin in nursing school and continue as long as the nurse is practice. Ethics inclusion should begin in nursing school and continue as long as the nurse is practice.
companies. Disclosure: Robin Geiger declares no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies. Written By: Darby Faubion BSN, RN Ethical behavior is characterized by fairness, honesty, and equity in professional, academic, and interpersonal relationships. It is demonstrated by a respect for diversity, dignity, and rights of individuals and
people. Nurses learn the importance of ethical behavior and how it applies to personal and professional behavior in nursing student, you may have asked, "What are the 9 Code of Ethics for nurses?" In this article, I will share information
with you regarding the 9 provisions of the ANA Nursing Code of Ethics + interpretive statements every nurse must adhere to. You will learn the important to have a moral and professional code of ethics and how they apply to nursing Code of Ethics? The
Nursing Code of Ethics is a tool for nurses at all levels of practice and loyalties and outlines the duties of nurses extending beyond individual patient encounters. According to the American Nurses
Association, the Code of Ethics for Nurses is the "Social contract that nurses have with the United States public. It exemplifies our profession's promise to provide and advocate for safe, quality care for all patients and communities. It binds nurses to support each other so all nurses can fulfill their ethical and professional obligations." The origins of
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the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements date back to the late 1800s. The foundarion of ethics in nursing practice. The foundarion of ethics she laid included preparing the groundwork for today's modern ethical standards. In 1893, the Nightingale Pledge was created by a committee led by Lystra Gretter, Principal of the Farrand Training School for Nurses in Detroit, Michigan, at the Harper Hospital. The Nightingale Pledge which, to this day, is still recited by nursing students during graduation and other nursing ceremonies. "I solemnly pledge myself

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before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold in confidence all
personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling. With loyalty will I endeavor to aid the physician in his work, and as a 'missioner of health' I will dedicate myself to devoted service to human welfare." (Nightingale Pledge, 1935) The formal Code of Ethics for nurses was developed by
the American Nurses Association and adopted in 1950. Since its original publications, the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses has undergone several modifications. According to the American Nurses has undergone several modifications. According to the American Nurses has undergone several modifications.
ethical obligations of the profession and quality nursing care. There are several reasons why the Code of Ethics for nurses is so important. Having a clear understanding of the benefit of the Code of Ethics establishes non-negotiable ethical
standards for all nursing roles in all settings. 2. The provisions outlined in the Nursing Code of Ethics outlines broad expectations of nurses at they navigate the complex healthcare system. 4. The Code of Ethics for nurses acts as a reminder to nurses of their commitment to
society. 5. The Nursing Code of Ethics establishes guidelines that stress the importance of nurses participating in continuing education and evidence-based practice. 6. The Code of Ethics provisions and interpretive statements address individual and
collective nursing actions, intentions, and expectations, requiring all nurses to always act in a professional manner. 8. The Code of Ethics for nurses is an expression of a nurse's understanding of her commitment to patients, the profession, and society. 9. The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses clarifies roles and responsibilities within e nursing
profession. 10. The Nursing Code of Ethics offers guidance to nurses for addressing common ethical situations or questions. The 7 ethical principles the Nursing Code of Ethics is based upon include beneficence, justice, accountability, autonomy, fidelity, and veracity. The following are brief descriptions of each of the ethical
principles. Beneficence is the act of doing what is good and right for the patient. This ethical principle encompasses charity and kindness, which require actions by the nurse to benefit others. Nonmaleficence means doing no harm (intentional). Nurses must provide care that reflects standards to avoid or minimize risk to the patient
healthcare team, or organization. Justice is fairness and impartiality. Nurses must make impartial, fair decisions regarding patient care without regard to a patient or one's personal actions. Autonomy is the ethical principle demonstrated when a nurse
accepts the patient as a unique person with the right to his own opinions, values, beliefs, and right to make his own decisions. Fidelity involves being true to the profession and honoring the responsibility of providing safe, competent
high-quality nursing care. Veracity is the principle of truth-telling. It requires nurses to be honest in their interactions with patients and colleagues. The 9 provisions of the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses are a guide for carrying out nursing responsibilities consistent with high-quality nursing care and in alignment with the ethical obligations of the
nursing profession. The following is a detailed explanation of the 9 provisions of the nursing code of ethics + interpretive statements every nurse needs to know about. The concept for human dignity means treating each
patient as a unique being and having respect for the patient's individuality. Respecting human dignity means demonstrating an understanding of competence and respect for patients, allowing them to feel valued, and to grow, develop, trust, and value others. The Nursing Code of Ethics includes guidelines about the importance of establishing
relationships with patients. The nurse must establish relationships with patients and deliver nursing care with respect for each person's individual needs and values, absent any prejudices. Nurses may not agree with or condone a client's individual needs and values, absent any prejudices. Nurses may not agree with or condone a client's individual needs and values, absent any prejudices. Nurses may not agree with or condone a client's individual needs and values, absent any prejudices.
the patient's lifestyle, religious beliefs, and value system when planning care for and with the patients regardless of the nature of their health problems, recognizing the worth of patients is not determined by disability, disease, functional status or ability, or the likelihood of death. Nurses act as leaders and
advocates for the delivery of humane nursing care aimed at preserving human dignity. Respect for patients regarding the nature of health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health promotion, disease prevention, health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health extends to any patient requiring nursing care for health extends to any patient requiring nursing nu
patients and implement appropriate and responsible interventions to minimize patient suffering and unwanted or unneeded treatment. Demonstrating respect for human dignity requires nurses to recognize patient rights, especially the right of self-determination or autonomy. Self-determination is the basis upon which patients can engage in informed
consent for healthcare services. Patients have a legal right to decide what treatments if any, will be performed on or for them. They have the right to accurate, understandable, and complete information that supports informed decision-making, allowing them to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of care. Nurses are obligated to be
knowledgeable about the legal and moral rights of all patients to self-determination. Nurses must protect, preserve, and support their patient's interests by verifying their comprehension of the education or information provided and the implications associated with their decisions. Nurses should support the patient's right to accept, refuse, or stop
treatment without undue influence, coercion, duress, or penalty. Support of self-determination includes recognizing cultural differences that may affect the patient's decisions about care. The nurse's compassion and respect for others extend to all people they interact with, including colleagues, members of the interdisciplinary team, and others. The
Nursing Code of Ethics encourages nurses to demonstrate commitment to integrity-preserving compromise, conflict resolution, and fear treatment of all individuals. Nurses work in various roles, and in each, the nurse must treat peers, assistants, employees, and students with compassion and respect. Relationships with colleagues and others should
value the contribution of individuals and groups and include collaboration to provide high-quality nursing care. All prejudicial actions, harassment, threatening behavior, or disregard for others should be avoided in their entirety. Primacy is defined as the fact of being primary, preeminent, or more important. Primacy of the Patient's Interests means
the nurse's main commitment is to the recipient of nursing care, the patient. The recipient may be an individual, family, group, or community. Nurses should strive to provide patients with opportunities to be involved in planning their care, assuring the patient believes the care plan is acceptable and supports the initiation of the plan. The nurse's
commitment to the patient should remain steadfast when conflict occurs or persists. It is not uncommon for nurses to be faced with a conflict related to expectations from patients, families, colleagues, or the organizations for who they work. It is crucial that nurses examine conflicts between their own professional and personal values, the interests
and values of interdisciplinary team members, patient families, and patients. Conflicts of interest for nurses may occur in any area of nursing practice including clinical settings, administrative positions, research, and education. Whether a conflict is actual or perceived, nurses must disclose the conflict of interest to all relevant parties, including
employers, colleagues, and patients. The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics urges nurses to withdraw from participation in any activity that creates a conflict of interest. However, nurses must understand that personal dislikes or discrimination against a person, group, or culture are not grounds for withdrawal from patient care. When
nurses and other members of the healthcare team cooperate to achieve a shared goal in patient care, this is known as collaboration in nursing is fundamental to addressing the healthcare needs of patients and the public. Effective patient care occurs through the interdisciplinary collaboration of nurses in various roles who
work together to teach skills, set standards, manage the healthcare environment, and expand nursing knowledge. Collaboration requires recognition, respect among healthcare team members, mutual trust, open dialogue among all parties, and shared decision-making about patient care. According to the Nursing Code of Ethics, nurses should actively
promote collaborative multidisciplinary planning to ensure the availability and accessibility of high-quality healthcare services to everyone in need. One of the most critical aspects of nursing ethics is recognizing and honoring professional boundaries. Nursing care is intimate in nature, which sometimes causes the line of limitation within professional boundaries.
relationships to blur. However, nurses must recognize and maintain appropriate boundaries within relationships. Nurse-patient and nurse-colleague relationships should have a foundation based on alleviating suffering, promoting, protecting, restoring patient health, and preventing illness. If professional boundaries are jeopardized, the nurse's
responsibility is to seek guidance from supervisors and/or take steps to remove themselves from the situation. The nurse must safeguard the patient information and environment that provides physical privacy as well as
auditory privacy to allow for personal discussions or consultations. It includes enacting policies and practices to protect the confidentiality of patient information. A patient's well-being, safety, and rights should be the primary factors when using professional judgment concerning confidential information. A patient, no matter the method
of delivery (written, verbal, electronic). The best way to protect a patient's right to confidentiality is to apply the "need to know" rule. In other words, it is the nurse's obligation to provide quality care and share relevant data only with the healthcare team members who need that knowledge to carry out their duties regarding patient care. The patient's
right to self-determination includes the right to choose whether to participate in any type of research. Before patients participate in research, it is crucial that the patient or their legal representative receives enough information to make an informed decision about the research. The nurse must ensure the patient or authorized party comprehends the
information before giving consent and that they understand they may discontinue participation in research involving vulnerable participation to be informed about the
subject's and the nurse's rights and obligations related to the study and research in general. If a nurse feels any research is morally questionable, it is her duty to question and, if necessary, refuse to participate in the research. Nurses are responsible for implementing and maintaining standards of professional practice. These standards of professional
nursing practice include being involved in the development of policies and assessing review mechanisms designed to reduce the risk associated with errors, promote patient safety, and address factors that present an increased risk to all patients. The Nursing Code of Ethics is clear that nurses should never participate in or attempt to hide errors or
punitive responses that serve to fix blame instead of correcting the condition that led to an error. Further, nurses should promote the inclusion of any appropriate person in all deliberations related to patient care. Nurses must participate in the development, implementation, adherence to, and review of policies that promote patient safety and well-
being, reduce errors, and establish a culture of safety. Nurses can improve workplace safety by collaborating with team members to promote patient health and safety. Although the goal is to avoid errors or accidents, when nurses create a culture of safety, they become more aware of risk factors to safety and more easily identify errors if they occur, and establish a culture of safety. Although the goal is to avoid errors or accidents, when nurses create a culture of safety.
If an event occurs that threatens the safety culture, nurses can then be sure they are investigated and appropriately handled, including creating a plan of correction to prevent repeated events. The primary commitment of all nurses is to the well-being, safety, and health of patients across the lifespan in all settings where healthcare needs are
identified and addressed. A nurse must recognize and take action to address any instances of unethical, illegal, incompetent, or impaired practice by any healthcare team member or others that place the patient in jeopardy. The nurse should first express concern to the person carrying out the questionable practice, including why the practice could be
detrimental to the patient's well-being or impact the integrity of nurses as advocates includes detrimental to the patient's well-being or impact the integrity of nurses as advocates includes
being dedicated to protecting the patient, the public, and the nursing profession from the potential harm that could occur when a colleague is suspected, the nurse is obligated to take action to protect patients and ensure the impairment of a colleague is suspected, the nurse is obligated to take action to protect patients.
states that "Nurses in all roles should advocate for colleagues whose job performance may be impaired to ensure they receive appropriate assistance, treatment, and access to fair institutional and legal processes." At times, advocacy can feel difficult. Nurses are encouraged to follow their organization's policies for reporting without fear of negative
consequences for reporting. Nursing practice includes any activity that involves direct patient care, delegation of nursing responsibile for the actions they take when providing or delegating care. Changing patterns in
healthcare delivery and the complexity with which care is delivered requires nurses to demonstrate sound judgment when delegating tasks, accepting nursing assignments, and consulting with others. Nurses must remain responsible and accountable for their actions, the quality of nursing care, and standards of care, including exercising authority
outlined in their scope of practice. Accountability in nursing means taking responsibility for and being answerable for one's actions. Nurses are expected to consistently perform with a code of ethical conduct. The American Nurses are expected to consistently perform with a code of ethical conduct. The American Nurses are expected to consistently perform with a code of ethical conduct.
decisions, and actions. Nurses must demonstrate accountability for decisions made in nursing practice and any nursing interventions they implement. The Code of conduct by which nurses must perform is grounded in the principles of respect for the worth, dignity, and autonomy of patients and moral principles. Being responsible for nursing
judgment, decisions, and actions involves exercising liability or accountability associated with the performance of the nurse's duties. The nurse's duties and accept or reject assignments based upon their knowledge, experience, competence, and education. Nurses in management positions must be careful not
to delegate responsibilities to others outside that person's scope of practice. Ethical nurses assess their own competence and recognize when patient needs exceed their education, qualifications, or experience. When a patient's needs are greater than the competencies of the nurse, the nurse must seek collaboration and consultation from the
interdisciplinary team and/or other appropriate sources. Nurses in leadership or supervisory roles often delegate nursing tasks or activities are accountable for the care provided. Therefore, the delegating nurse must assess the competence of staff to whom
they delegate responsibility. The nurse is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the care provided. Nurses in management roles must provide an environment conducive to appropriate delegation, including assisting nurses in developing skills and competencies, providing orientation to staff, and establishing policies to protect patients and nurses
from the inappropriate delegation of nursing tasks. This ANA Code of Ethics for nurses interpretive statement is a brief introduction to the fifth provision of the Code. To be effective in their roles, nurses must take time to take care of themselves with the same level of care as they provide to others. Nurses can foster their own well-being by
maintaining their competence, preserving integrity, and committing to personal and professional growth. All other interpretive statements in the fifth provision explain how nurses can meet the ethical demand requiring a duty to self and others. Nurses need to understand the importance of self-care and learn how to promote personal physical and
mental well-being, good heal, and safety in personal and professional practices. Creating a healthy work-life balance diet, exercising, and getting sufficient rest. It is also necessary to recognize compassion fatigue or burnout symptoms and mental well-being by eating a well-balanced diet, exercising, and getting sufficient rest. It is also necessary to recognize compassion fatigue or burnout symptoms and getting sufficient rest.
seek help or relief when needed. Further, nurses must follow safety protocol to reduce the risk of injury or exposure to illness-causing pathogens. The best way to sum up this interpretive statement is to say, "It is impossible to provide high-quality, effective care to others if you do not care for yourself." Although nurses have professional and personal
identities, neither is entirely independent nor entirely merged with the other. Instead, the nurse's personal and professional identities are integrated, which means the nurse embraces professional identities are integrated, which means the nurse embraces professional values and incorporates them with personal values. Wholeness of character includes the nurse's relationship with patients and colleagues alike. It is
necessary for nurses to maintain personal and professional boundaries. While it is okay for a nurse to express a personal opinion, when solicited, the wholeness of character requires the nurse to ensure their opinion does not violate a patient's self-determination with undue influence. Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong
moral principles. It is crucial for nurses to protect their personal and professional integrity to occur when nurses are asked to perform in a way that violates the values or ethics of the nursing profession, especially those requires that violate the Nursing Code of Ethics. While some circumstances require
nurses to compromise, nurses should never agree to anything that does not honor and uphold integrity in personal or nursing standards, nurses are within their rights to express their objection to participation. Nurses are trusted with the
responsibility of providing high-quality nursing care to patients. As the healthcare industry continually grows and expands, adding advanced technology and evolving knowledge, it is crucial for nurses to keep up with the pace. Professional growth and maintenance of competence go hand-in-hand. Nurses should not only complete formal training but
actively engage in continuing professional development to ensure the maintenance of competence in nursing practice. The nurse should be committed to lifelong learning. Performing self-assessments and participating in continuing education helps the nurse remain aware of current trends in healthcare, including new concepts, healthcare concerns,
and treatments. The ANA Code of ethics recognizes the integration of the nurse's personal growth also affect personal growth also affect personal growth is impacted by any measure to maintain competence and continue professional growth, making the wholeness of
the nurse come full circle resulting in an integrated person representing worth and dignity. Nurses can complement their professional growth by implementing recreational activities, personal study, and social advocacy. Virtues are habits or behaviors of character that predispose one to meet moral obligations. People with high moral virtue possess
attributes such as courage, compassion, honesty, and patience. In nursing, moral virtues are habits that confirm and promote the values of well-being, health, human dignity, respect, and autonomy. Some research indicates that the physical environment has a role in an individual's moral virtue and judgment, either supporting the growth of virtues or
causing growth to be thwarted or diminished. According to the American Nurses are responsible for creating, maintaining, and contributing to environments include working conditions and policies
and procedures which outline the expectations of nurses. Role descriptions, organizational structures, ethics committees, disciplinary procedures, health and safety initiatives, and compensation systems contribute to the nurse's work environment. These contributes, and compensation systems contributes, and compensation systems contribute to the nurse's work environment.
the same. When nurses feel their work environment is fair and that high standards of care are supported, they are more likely to realize the values of the nursing profession and act according to sound nursing practices. Nurses play a vital role in the healthcare environment. The nurse is responsible for contributions that create an environment of
support for patients and peers and respect among colleagues. It is crucial for nurses to understand that accepting inappropriate or unsafe nursing practices is the same as condoning the practice, even if that nurse is not participating in the questionable practice. Nurses in leadership roles should advocate for fair treatment of the nurses on their
teams. Any nurse employed at a facility that violates patient or nurse rights or asks the nurse to compromise personal morals should not remain employed at that facility. It is the position of the American Nurses Association that all nurses should participate in the advancement of the nursing profession through knowledge development
dissemination, evaluation, and application to practice. Knowledge development relies upon research and scholarly inquiry. Scholarly inquiry helps expand the body of knowledge that forms and advances the practice and theory of the nursing discipline on all levels. Nurses engage in scholarly activities by using evidence-based practices. Nurse
researchers are responsible for making active contributions supportive of advancing the nursing profession, testing existing nurses to be involved in the development of professional guidelines and guidelines and guidelines are
designed to reflect the practice of nursing that supports a broad body of knowledge and ethical commitments. The Code clearly states it is the nurse's responsibility to know their own scope of practice and to adhere to that Code. Nurse education to ensure students possess the
skills and knowledge needed to graduate from nursing programs. Nurse managers and administrators must establish and maintain employment conditions that allow nurses to practice within the guidelines established by the ANA Code of Ethics, nurses
can, and should, seek ways to advance their profession by contributing to activities, leadership, and the viability of profession are to serve as leaders or mentors or to become committee members where they are employed. Participation in healthcare-related civil
activities, demonstrating professional integrity, and promoting professional and civic values are a few ways to contribute to nursing and healthcare. According to the World Health Administration, "the highest attainable standard of health initiatives related to nursing and healthcare.
a fundamental right of every human being." The statement, "Health is a universal right," creates an obligation for nurses to health care services, including preventive, emergency, and trauma care, basic sanitation, and education concerning the
prevention, treatment, and control of common health problems. It also includes having the right to food security, injury prevention, immunizations, prevention and/or control of endemic diseases, potable water, reproductive health problems. It also includes having the right to food security, injury prevention, immunizations, prevention and/or control of endemic diseases, potable water, reproductive health problems. It also includes having the right to food security, injury prevention, immunizations, prevention and/or control of endemic diseases, potable water, reproductive health problems.
interpretive statement explains the importance of all nurses being committed to advancing the welfare, health, and safety of all people. If health is a universal human right, health disparity creates a human right, health disparity creates a human right, health disparity creates a human right.
fullest potential and live with dignity. Some ways nurses can participate in collaboration for health, human rights, and health diplomacy include writing letters to legislators, promoting health lifestyles within their communities, and health diplomacy include writing letters to legislators, promoting health lifestyles within their communities, and creating and helping maintain culturally sensitive healthcare environments to address diverse cultural perspectives
should avoid imposing their own cultural values upon others. Instead, the nurse can advance human rights by affirming human dignity and showing respect for the personal values and practices of patients from other cultures. Social determinants of health that must be addressed include poor sanitation, hunger, violence, homelessness, and limited
education. The nurse can help address these by creating collaborative partnerships to impact legislation, health status of their community and to recognize existing threats to safety and health. It is vital for
nurses to participate in active collaboration with other healthcare professionals, including participating in and supporting community groups and disease, promote informed decision-making, encourage healthy lifestyles, and
participate in legislative and institutional efforts to promote health and wellness. The American Nurses Association Code of Ethics interpretative statements in this section deal with professional nursing organizations and its members. It is
the responsibility of professional nursing associations to affirm and communicate nursing values to their members. The ANA Code of Ethics for nurses supports the necessity for professional organizations to encourage the support of critical evaluation and self-reflection within the nursing professional organizations share and articulate
mutual values with the nursing profession, colleagues, and the public. The Code states that professional nursing organizations should communicate to the public values of the
profession and for encouraging their members to act in compliance with those ethics and values. In fact, one of the most essential responsibilities of professional nursing organizations is to advocate for awareness of and adherence to the Nursing Code of Ethics. Nursing organizations help promote the integrity of the profession by encouraging
respect, care, and fairness in all areas of nursing, ensuring nursing workforce sustainability, advancing nursing science, promoting higher education for nurses, and facilitating evidence-informed practices. Nurses are in a unique position to work both as independent citizens and as part of a professional group using political actions focused on
bringing about social change. The ANA Code of Ethics establishes a position that professional nursing associations have a responsibility to speak on behalf of nurses collectively in efforts to shape and/or reshape healthcare, promoting and integrating social justice. This includes lobbying for legislation that affects the quality, accessibility, and cost of
healthcare services. The integration of social justice in nursing involves the belief that health is more than delivery and reimbursement systems. It is understood that sociocultural issues such as homelessness, violation of human rights, violence, the stigma of illness, and hunger have health-related impacts. Pursuing social justice in nursing means that health is more than delivery and reimbursement systems.
demonstrating vigilance in efforts to influence people in power to address unjust health and health policy involves extending activities to address health-related sociocultural issues, including homelessness, violence,
hunger, the stigma of illness, and violations of human rights. One of the most common violations of the Nursing Code of Ethics is the violation of a patient's right to privacy. Violation of a patient information only with the
people providing care for the patient and anyone else the patient or his legal representative approves. Conversations regarding a patient should occur away from the public and in areas designated for care. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics Provision 6.3): Nurses are responsible for knowing which acts or behavior constitute unsafe nursing practices
Further, the ANA Nursing Code of Ethics encourages nurses to avoid any behavior that jeopardizes patient or nursing safety and well-being. Any time nurses feel the need to question any behavior and its ethicality, they should be able to do so without fear of negative consequences. However, even in the face of unfavorable consequences, the nurse
should always err on the side of provisions outlined in the Nursing Code of Ethics. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics Provision 1.4): Healthcare providers must explain treatment options and procedures and obtain consent from the patient or her legal representative before care is administered. Before patients or their representatives can submit
informed consent, the nurse's responsibility is to make sure they understand all aspects of the proposed treatment. If a patient does not fully understand a proposed treatment and is afraid to ask questions, the nurse may assume he understands and proceed with care, creating a violation of the Code of Ethics which protects the patient's right to make
informed decisions for himself. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics 5.2): Healthcare is ever-growing and expanding. New medications are developed daily. According to the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics, nurses must evaluate their own performance and competencies and strive for personal and professional growth. Professional growth in
nursing requires a lifelong commitment to learning. When nurses do not pursue avenues to expand their knowledge and develop new skills, their disinterest can result in the delivery of patient care that is not up to date with current standards. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics Provision 2.1): There are instances when nurses have the right to refuse to
participate in certain activities or assignments. One example of when it is appropriate to decline participate in a type of care being provided conflicts with the nurse's religious beliefs. While it is sometimes acceptable for nurses to refuse to participate in a type of care, it is never appropriate to refuse care based on the
nurse's personal dislike for or discrimination against a person. For example, it is inappropriate for a nurse to refuse patient care when the patient of ANA Code of Ethics Provision 3.6): Understandably, nurses may feel apprehensive about reporting suspected
impaired behavior of a coworker. However, the Nursing Code of Ethics is clear about the importance of protecting patients and the profession by addressing impaired practice. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics Provision 1.4): At times, nurses are faced with the ethical dilemma of being asked to withhold the seriousness of a diagnosis from their
patients. It is not uncommon for family members to want to spare their leved ones the anguish of knowing how dire their health situation is. However, if the patient is of sound mind, it is his right to make decisions about his care, including deciding who else can know about his illness, disease, or prognosis. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics 3.5): A
nurse's primary focus should be the health, safety, and well-being of patients. If a nurse suspects inappropriate or unethical practices put the patient, healthcare team, and the profession at risk for harm. Therefore, the nurse must
always address concerns with the person carrying out the practice and, if appropriate, escalate the concern to a higher authority. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics 4.3): Even the best nurses have bad days and make mistakes. One of the most professional characteristics a nurse can demonstrate is the willingness to be accountable and responsible for
his own actions. Being ethical means being accountable for one's nursing judgment and actions, even if it means owning up to a mistake or a misunderstanding. (Violation of ANA Code of Ethics 4.4): Charge nurses, nurse supervisors, and administrative nurses assign nursing staff to care for patients and perform specific procedures or treatments.
While the nurse may have authority to delegate, the nurse also has the responsibility to make decisions based upon the knowledge and skills of the nurse to whom assignments are delegated. Nurses who delegate assignments to personnel who are not adequately trained or comfortable providing that type of care violate the patient's right to safe care
and the Nursing Code of Ethics. The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses is not legally binding. However, state Boards of Nursing have the authority to discipline nurses to be honest with their supervisors. Some cases may require the nurse to self-disclose or
report a violation of the Nursing Code of Ethics to their Board of Nursing Code of Ethics for nurses can have dire consequences. It is vital for nurses to be aware of the possible consequences associated with Code
of Ethics violations for nurses. Nurses who violate ethical codes of conduct can expect to face disciplinary action from their employers. Depending on the violations of the Nursing Code of Ethics are repeated,
the nurse could face termination. It is the nurse and healthcare organization's responsibility to hold patient safety, privacy, and care in the highest regard. If a nurse fails to follow the provisions outlined by the Code of Ethics, it can result in loss of job. Any action that constitutes violation of the Nursing Code of Ethics may be reported to the Board of
Nursing that holds jurisdiction over the nurse's license. As such, it is the discretion of the Board to determine what action, if any, will be taken against the nurses can face loss of their nursing license following ethical violations. When nurses violate the Code of
Ethics, they open themselves up for risk of facing civil litigation. Patients or the reaching financial, social, and psychological effects. While many breaches of the ANA Code of Ethics for
nurses are considered civil matters, some violations can result in criminal prosecution and penalties. For example, some HIPAA violations carry criminal penalties. As if disciplinary actions, loss of job or license, and the risk of legal action were not enough, nurses who violate ethical codes of contact are at risk of losing professional relationships.
Professional peers may personally like another nurse, but often find it in their best interest to step away from relationships with unethical nurses to protect their own reputations. There are several resources to find information about the ANA Code of Ethics for nurses. The following are some books, YouTube videos and websites where nurses can find
Code of Ethics information. • Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements: This book offers a framework for decision-making and ethical analysis for registered nurses in all practice levels, settings, and roles. The Code of Ethics for Nurses is useful in healthcare today as it emphasizes the fundamental commitments and values of nurses,
describes duties of the nurse beyond patient care, and identifies the lines between personal and professional boundaries. • Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretation, and Application: In this in-depth book, readers will find key ethical principles as they relate to nursing. Each chapter is devoted
to a single Code provision and includes key ethical concepts related to that provision. • Nursing Ethics: Understanding ethics in nursing. • What is the Code of Ethics for Nurses? In less than seven
minutes, this YouTube video defines what the Code of Ethics for Nurses is and explains the principles that make up the Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements and is an excellent resource for information about the Code as well as other things relevant to nursing
practices. One of the most important questions nursing students and nurses can ask is, "What are the 9 Code of Ethics for nurses?" Nurses concerned with delivering high-quality, ethical nursing practices learn the Code and implement it in daily practices. The 9 provisions of the ANA Nursing Code of Ethics + interpretive statements every nurse must
adhere to featured in this article offer nurses insight into the type of behavior expected of nurses in patient care. By demonstrating ethica for Nurses was called the Nightingale Pledge. Provisions are codes for specific
standards of behavior and performance expectations. The provision number in the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses code of Ethics for Nurses code of Ethics for Nurses is the International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics for Nurses. The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses is the International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics for Nurses.
of Ethics for Nurses is a statement of ethical values, professional accountabilities, and responsibilities of nurses and nursing students. It defines and guides ethical practice with various nursing roles. If you have questions about the ANA Code of Ethics for nurses, you may contact the Center of Ethics and Human Rights at ethics@ana.org. The
American Nurses Association developed the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses. The Code with interpretive statements can be found on the ANA website. Nurses who are dedicated to high-quality patient care, desiring to promote the profession typically find it easy to adhere to the ANA Code of Ethics for nurses. There are several ways to use citations in
writing. One way to cite the ANA Code of Ethics is to use the MLA citation as follows: American Nurses Association. Code of Ethics applies to every person who enters the nursing profession, regardless of their level of degree or licensure. Because nursing is based on a
commitment to promote the well-being of patients and the profession, nursing students should be committed to learning and accepting the ANA Code of Ethics. Nursing students learn the principles of the ANA code of ethics, they develop a foundation of
sound nursing practice based upon morals and integrity. The ANA Code of ethics helps guide everyday nursing as they develop the knowledge and skillset necessary to provide high-quality, ethical nursing care. Darby Faubion BSN, RN Darby Faubion is a
nurse and Allied Health educator with over twenty years of experience. She has assisted in developing curriculum for nursing graduates
across the United States who are preparing to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The Nursing Code of Ethics, the foundational ethical framework for nurses, has finally been revised and updated to include the rapid changes and developments in the nursing profession and healthcare sector. The 2025 update was the collective
insight of over 6,000 nurses worldwide that underwent an extensive and inclusive revision, including a panel of 49 nursing code of ethics - autonomy, beneficence, justice, and non-maleficence - are still included in the current 2025
Nursing Code of Ethics, but there is less of an emphasis on them as in prior versions. According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), the nursing care and the ethical obligations of the profession." Ethics, in general, are the moral
principles that dictate how a person will conduct themselves. Ethical values are essential for ALL healthcare workers, but ethical principles in nursing are particularly important given their role as caregivers. The newest update revised the Code of Ethics and kept the nine provisions, with some edits, as well as added a tenth provision. According to
the ANA, the revision addresses current and emerging changes in caring science, health science, nursing humanities, and technology, including artificial intelligence, racism and systemic oppression, allyship and advocacy, political action, and more. "The Code of Ethics for Nurses is a living, breathing body of work that is exercised and interpreted by
nurses every day in all they do. Whether in the boardroom or at the bedside, the Code is a necessary instrument for practice, policy, and standards in all facets of nursing," said American Nurses Association's President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "The phrase 'nursing is a calling,' is true. The identity of being a nurse
permeates our very being and all that we do—be it as caretakers, advocates, or educators—we are dedicated to delivering healthcare for all." As the leading educational website for nurses by nurses, Nurse.org is committed to editorial integrity and data-driven analysis. <a href="#">Content written by 80+</a> licensed, practicing nurses who are experts in their
respective specialties. Learn more about our nurse contributors. Transparent, trusted data sources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), Payscale, ZipRecruiter and Glassdoor. Learn more about our data resources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), Payscale, ZipRecruiter and Glassdoor.
information when it becomes available. Revised in 2025 to include 10 provisions, the ANA's nursing code of ethics now includes interpretative statements that can provide more specific guidance for nursing practice. 10 Provisions of the Nursing Code of ethics contains 10 main provisions, with provision 10 being
new to this update: Provision 1: The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. Provision 2: A nurse's primary community, or population. Provision 3: The nurse establishes a trusting
relationship and advocates for the rights, health, and safety of recipient(s) of nursing care. Provision 4: Nurses have authority over nursing practice and are responsible and accountable for their practice consistent with their obligations to promote health, prevent illness, and provide optimal care. Provision 5: The nurse has moral duties to self as a
person of inherent dignity and worth including an expectation of a safe place to work that fosters flourishing, authenticity of self at work, and self-respect through integrity and professional competence. Provision 6: Nurses, through individual and collective effort, establish, maintain, and improve the ethical environment of the work setting that affects
nursing care and the well-being of nurses. Provision 7: Nurses advance the profession through multiple approaches to knowledge development, professional standards, and the generation of policies for nursing, health, and social concerns. Provision 8: Nurses build collaborative relationships and networks with nurses, other healthcare and non-
healthcare disciplines, and the public to achieve greater ends. Provision 9: Nurses and their professional organizations work to enact and resource practices, and legislation to promote social justice, eliminate health inequities, and facilitate human flourishing. Provision 10: Nursing, through organizations and associations, participates in the
global nursing and health community to promote human and environmental health, well-being, and flourishing. These principles are sometimes confusing and often taught briefly during undergraduate nursing, they should be constants in nursing
practice to provide the best, safest, and most humane care to all patients. 1. Autonomy in nursing is recognizing each individual patient's right to self-determination, education, and options in order to choose the
option that is best for them. This includes all potential risks, benefits, and complications to make well-informed decisions. Once the patient has all the relevant information, the medical wishes of the patient. It is important that nurses support the patient in their medical wishes
and ensure that the medical team is remembering those wishes. Sometimes, nurses will need to continue to advocate for a patient despite the wishes being verbalized because the medical treatment, such as culture, age, gender, sexual
orientation, general health, and social support system. 2. Beneficence Beneficence in nursing is acting for the good and welfare of others and including such attributes as kindness and charity. The American Nurses Association defines this as "actions guided by compassion." 3. Justice Justice means that there should be an element of fairness in all
medical and nursing decisions and care. Nurses must care for all patients with the same level of fairness despite the individuals in the community regardless of the
previously mentioned factors. 4. Nonmaleficence means to do no harm. This is the most well-known of the main principles of nursing ethics. More specifically, it is selecting interventions and care that will cause the least amount of harm to achieve a beneficial outcome.
and community in all care delivery. Nurses are also responsible for reporting treatment options that are causing significant harm to a patient, which may include suicidal or homicidal ideations. Interestingly, the nursing code of ethics is suggested to have been founded in 1893 and named the "Nightingale Pledge" after Florence Nightingale, the
founder of modern nursing. As a modification of the Hippocratic Oath, taken by medical doctors, the Nightingale Pledge has been recited by nursing students at graduations with little changes since its inception. The formal code of ethics was developed in the 1950s by the American Nurses Association (ANA) and has undergone numerous
modifications since. The most significant recent change was in 2015 when 9 interpretative statements or provisions were added to the code of ethics in their practice in a more definitive way. Many states include the ANA's nursing code of ethics in their practice in their practice statements. Even though the code of ethics is primarily ethics-related, it
also has legal implications. Given the importance of the code to the nursing profession, revisions continue regularly. Knowing the nursing code of ethics is essential for nurses because it will help guide everyday practice and navigate the daily complexities of the healthcare profession. Nurses often use the four major ethical principles throughout a
shift, even if not fully aware of them. This may include, Providing pain medication to a post-operative hip replacement Holding the hand of a dying patient who is alone Advocating for the patient who wants to end chemotherapy and enter hospice care Nursing is consistently regarded as the most honest and ethical profession and practicing with the
nursing code of ethics is essential to ensuring that patients and their families receive the care they have come to know and expect. Utilizing the ethical codes of justice, nonmaleficence, autonomy, and beneficence daily allows nurses to provide the safest and most compassionate care for their patients. Nurses perform hundreds of critical, health-
related tasks every day. In some cases, the decisions they must make test their professional and personal morality. The nursing code of ethics helps caregivers consider patient needs from several viewpoints and maintain a safe recovery environment. Ethical guidelines remind caregivers to treat all people equitably and individually, while protecting
the privacy rights of patients in ways that may not seem overtly obvious. These recommendations also call on caregivers to advocate and seek justice for those in their care, and to take full responsibility for their work as nurses. RNs looking to advance their care, and to take full responsibility for their work as nurses.
What Are Ethics in Nursing? Professional nurses sometimes experience situations in the workplace that challenge their personal and professional ethics. Morally courageous healthcare professionals, however, find a way to make ethical decisions even if they are alone in their beliefs. Nurses who exercise this ability strive to behave according to the
nursing code of ethics, regardless of negative personal outcomes that may arise. These outcomes that may arise. These outcomes that may arise as fe, non-judgmental caregiving environment. When unforeseen danger occurs,
nurses take action to protect patients and themselves. They also express empathy through words and actions, while forming strong connections with their patients. These relationships foster a dialogue that helps healthcare professionals find personalized and effective care solutions. Nurses need to practice professional humility and flexible thinking.
The nursing code of ethics encourages healthcare professionals to incorporate these moral guidelines into their personal lives as well. According to the American Nurses Association (ANA), nursing ethics cover several common areas. End-of-life issues Bioethics Advocacy Caregiving Moral courage, moral distress, and moral resilience Cultural
Competency in Nursing An important area of ethics in nursing is cultural awareness. Nurses are increasingly seeing patients from different cultures, with different languages and different beliefs. Those patients from different cultures, with different languages and different beliefs. Those patients from different cultures, with different cultur
cultural differences influence a patient's healthcare-related beliefs, attitudes, and actions. The code of ethics can help nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient's healthcare-related beliefs, attitudes, and actions. The code of ethics can help nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs. In addition, nurses remember that each patient has a unique background and unique needs.
examining their own biases. Having a keen sense of cultural awareness can serve caregivers well, especially when they are faced with dilemmas regarding care for patients from diverse backgrounds. Ultimately, cultural competency helps nurses serve individual and community interests by working toward the best possible health-related outcomes
Examples of Ethics in Nursing Key examples of ethics in nursing cover a variety of areas. Confidentiality Under HIPAA, nurses cannot disclose sensitive information about their patients. In addition, the nursing code of ethics emphasizes the importance of keeping the details of patient cases confidential. This guideline goes beyond making sure that
unauthorized persons do not gain access to private records. The code encourages caregivers to discuss cases only when others are not present or are unable to hear their dialogue. This applies especially in the care setting, where nearby staff or patrons may overhear clinical discussions. Accountability Nursing professionals take responsibility for
their actions. They are honest and exercise strong moral practices in the workplace. Ethical nurses never attempt to provide services beyond their proficiency and do all they can to keep their patients safe. Valuing Individual Patients to be
equally proactive in following this same standard. Additionally, nurses treat everyone with respect and maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times. Wholistic Care approach, taking into account patients' physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. They
network with other healthcare professionals to meet and apply this goal as universally as possible. They also work to mitigate threats to responsible wholistic care, such as public health initiatives that misalign with community health needs. Advocating for Patients Nurses must dedicate themselves as patient advocates, ensuring every patient's unique
needs and preferences are incorporated into their care. The Nursing code of ethics sets forth the principle that people have the right to decide how they want treatment and to be informed about that treatment in a manner that meets their preferences. It is important, however, that patients be mentally fit to make those types of decisions. If they are
not, nurses must help them with the decision-making process. Promoting Equality The nursing code of ethics promotes fair treatment toward all individuals and denounce discrimination for any reason. This includes making sure they distribute limited healthcare resources based on need. By exercising fair treatment, caregivers create trusting
relationships with their clients. Pursue a Nursing Career The history of nursing education at AdventHealth University Online stretches back to 1908, providing students with a strong foundation of academic excellence. Today, that education is marked by cutting-edge courses taught by experienced faculty who are dedicated to helping individuals
pursue an online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) degree from AdventHealth University Online. Recommended Readings Advocating for Nurses With
Disabilities Leadership Styles in Nursing: Seven Effective Approaches What Is Humanitarian Nurses Association, "Ethics and Human Rights" American Nurses Association (Ethics and Human Rights) American Nurses Association (Ethics and 
BMC Nursing, "Increasing Cultural Awareness: Qualitative Study of Nurses' Perceptions About Cultural Awareness in Healthcare: A Checklist" The Nursing Code of Ethics, the foundational ethical framework for nurses, has finally been revised and updated to include the rapid changes and
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"The Code of Ethics for Nurses is a living, breathing body of work that is exercised and interpreted by nurses every day in all they do. Whether in the boardroom or at the bedside, the Code is a necessary instrument for practice, policy, and standards in all facets of nursing," said American Nurses Association's President Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, PhD,
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driven analysis. Content written by 80+ licensed, practicing nurses who are experts in their respective specialties. Learn more about our nurse contributors. Transparent, trusted data sources from the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), Payscale, ZipRecruiter and Glassdoor. Learn more about our data resources.
updates to ensure they are as relevant and accurate as possible, utilizing the latest data and information when it becomes available. Revised in 2025 to include 10 provisions, the ANA's nursing code of ethics now includes interpretative statements that can provide more specific guidance for nursing practice. 10 Provisions of the Nursing Code of
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data resources. Consistent article updates to ensure they are as relevant and accurate as possible, utilizing the latest data and information when it becomes available. Revised in 2025 to include 10 provisions, the ANA's nursing code of ethics now includes interpretative statements that can provide more specific guidance for nursing practice. 10
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medication to a post-operative hip replacement Holding the hand of a dying patient who is alone Advocating for the patient who wants to end chemotherapy and enter hospice care Nursing is consistently regarded as the most honest and their
families receive the care they have come to know and expect. Utilizing the ethical codes of justice, nonmaleficence, autonomy, and beneficence daily allows nurses to provide the safest and most compassionate care for their patients. Beth Epstein, PhD, RN Martha Turner, PhD, RN-BC To practice competently and with integrity, today's nurses must
have in place several key elements that guide the profession, such as an accreditation process for education, a rigorous system for licensure and certification, and a relevant code of ethics. The American Nurses Association has guided and supported nursing practice through creation and implementation of a nationally accepted Code of Ethics for
Nurses with Interpretive Statements. This article will discuss ethics in society, professions, and nursing and illustrate how a professional code of Ethics, discuss the modern Code of Ethics, and describe the importance of periodic revision, including the
inclusive and thorough process used to develop the 2015 Code and a summary of recent changes. Finally, the article provides implications for practicing nurses to assure that this document is a dynamic, useful resource in a variety of healthcare settings. Key words: Ethics, code of ethics, nursing, profession To practice competently and with integrity
today's nurses must have in place several key elements that guide the profession... Professional nursing is defined as "the protection, promotion, and optimization of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families,
communities, and populations" (ANA, 2010, p. 10). To practice competently and with integrity, today's nurses must have in place several key elements that guide the profession, such as an accreditation process for education, a rigorous system for certification and licensure, and a relevant code of ethics. The American Nurses Association (ANA) has
guided and supported nursing practice through policy development and action; establishment of the scope and standards of nursing practice; and implementation of a nationally accepted Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (hereafter referred to as the Code; ANA, 2015b). This article will discuss ethics in the context of society
professions, and nursing and illustrate how a professional code of ethics, specifically the Code, can guide nursing practice in a variety of settings. We also offer a brief history of the Code of Ethics, discuss the modern Cod
 Code and a summary of recent changes. Finally, the article provides implications for practicing nurses to assure that the Code is a dynamic, useful resource in a variety of healthcare settings. Ethics in Society, Professions, and NursingEthics of SocietyThe agreement to live by rules may be externally imposed by laws and leaders or internally imposed
by the common morality. The field of ethics addresses how we ought to treat each other, how we ought to act, what we ought to do, and why. We manage ethical issues every day as members of families, and as members of society, as members of society, as members of families, and as members of families, and as members of families, and as members of society, for example, we are obligated to not kill or hurt one another or to take
from others what is not ours. These rules are not just in our own best interest (not to be killed, for instance), but they promote the flourishing of our society. We would likely have great difficulty living productive lives if we constantly worried about our homes being ransacked or our lives being in danger. The agreement to live by rules may be
externally imposed by laws and leaders or internally imposed by the common morality. In the 1600s, British philosopher Thomas Hobbes (1651/1950) posited that, if left solely to ourselves, we require strong leadership and ar
accepted social contract to guide conduct (Hobbes, 1651/1950). Several leading contemporary bioethicists assert that as vulnerable human beings, we have realized the need to abide by a common morality, which allow us to live and flourish without constant worry of destruction (Beauchamp & Childress, 2009; Gert,
2004). These are not necessarily imposed upon us, as through strong leadership, but are internally driven moral rules. Regardless, our abilities to live peacefully and productively and to identify our obligations to one another in our own society and across cultures are informed by ethics. Ethics of Professions To consider ethical issues, some level of
guidance about how to do so should be in place. Similarly, the choice to pursue a career in nursing, medicine, business, law, or other professions involves incorporating the obligations and virtues of that smaller "society." These obligations and virtues are added to our already assumed obligations as members of the larger society. For health
professionals in particular, Purtilo writes, "citizens in general are not morally required to help another in need. You are. Citizens are not morally required to be nonjudgmental about another's character. You are..." (Purtilo, 2005, p. 11). As
professionals, we agree to identify those ethical issues that tend to arise within our chosen professions, this is done with a code of ethics. Examples include the Code of Medical Ethics, social workers' Code of Ethics, and the Code of Ethics, and the Code of Ethics.
for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (AMA, 2014-2015; ANA, 2015b; National Association of Social Workers [NASW], 2008). These documents guide practice decisions and Nursing Nurse involvement in biomedical ethics. Nurses typically encounter
ethical issues in three realm of biomedical ethics including the broad, overarching, health-related problems that impact policy or society as a whole; dilemmas that arise within organizations; and those that affect patients, advanced
practice nurses, and clinical nurses all encounter biomedically-related ethical problems every day (Moon, Taylor, McDonald, Hughes & Carrese, 2009; Ulrich et al., 2010). On a policy or societal level, broad questions are asked. Examples of such queries may include discussion about whether access to healthcare is a right or a privilege; how to protect
 research participants from harm; the most fair method for resource distribution during an Ebola crisis; or the inappropriateness of punitive measures against pregnant women who use drugs and alcohol. Nurses are involved in these questions as clinicians, researchers, policy makers, ethicists, and educators. They may participate in preparation of
position statements and guidance documents from federal and national organizations such as the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, the American Association, or the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), to name a few (Presidential Commission, 2015; ANA, 2015a, AACN, 2015). ...the organization and
the nurse's central place within it... are often a cause of nurses' ethical dilemmas. At the organizational level, many ethically challenging questions arise for nurses to better understand the kinds of ethical issues that arose (Chambliss, 1996). He embedded himself in a hospital
setting and soon found that it was the organization and the nurse's central place within it—the multiple loyalties, hierarchies of power, the tendency within systems to be slow to change and to impede individual practice—that was often a cause of nurses' ethical dilemmas. More recent literature about organizational ethics and culture has explored the
hospital ethical climate and the culture of quality and safety, as well as shifts in financial concerns that influence professional practice (Austin, 2004). In their analysis of the moral habitability of the nursing work environment, Peter et al.
(2004) found evidence of oppressive environments, moral suffering, and unclear, overwhelming role expectations. They also found, however, that nurses tended to identify paths of resistance and influence, such as finding strength in numbers and being assertive in order to achieve their goals. Other studies have evaluated relationships between
ethical climate and job satisfaction, ethics stress (stressors related to ethical dilemmas within the healthcare setting), and moral distress (situations where the "right" action is known but cannot be carried out). Researchers have found that poor ethical climates were correlated with higher levels of moral distress, poorer job satisfaction, and increased
likelihood of intent to leave a position (Hamric & Blackhall, 2001; Whitehead, Herbertson, Hamric, Epstein & Fisher, 2015; Pauly, Varcoe, Storch & Newton, 2009; Ulrich et al., 2007). Thus, it is clear that the organizational ethics aspects of healthcare are important factors for nurses. An effective ethical code for nursing practice must provide
guidance on managing ethical problems that arise at the societal level, the organizational level, and the clinical level, ethical issues encountered by nurses, Ulrich et al. (2010) found that more than 60% of nurses identified patient's rights, autonomy, and informed consent as
frequent or daily problems. Other common issues included advanced care planning, surrogate decision making, end-of-life decision making, and breeches of confidentiality (Ulrich et al., 2007). Pavlish, Brown-Saltzman, Hersh, Shirk & Rounkle (2011) explored the ethical issues, actions and regrets of nurses and found that unnecessary pain and
suffering, difficult decision making, and inattention to patient autonomy were problematic. Nurses acted in several ways to address these problems, such as communicating and speaking up, advocating and collaborating, being present and empathetic, and being informed (Pavlish et al., 2011). The utility of the Code. An effective ethical code for
nursing practice must provide guidance on managing ethical problems that arise at the societal level, the organizational level, and the clinical level aspects and organizational aspects. This scenario
demonstrates the benefit of the Code as a useful tool for evaluation and action.Mr. Logan is a 48 year old who has struggled with an opioid addiction for the past 5 years. Recently, he was playing basketball with friends when he slipped on the court, fell, and broke his arm badly. After his arm was repaired surgically, the physician orders
acetaminophen, 650 milligrams by mouth or normal saline, 1 cc, IM, prn for pain. The nurse asks the physician about this, concerned about Mr. Logan you're giving him medication for his pain. Hopefully he'll get a placebo effect." Meanwhile, Mr
Logan is in excruciating pain. The nurse gives him the acetaminophen and several injections of the "pain medicine" with no effect. Mr. Logan says, "What are you giving me? It isn't working!" What should the nurse do now? The immediate questions that arise in this dilemma are, 'should the nurse deceive Mr. Logan?' is this an appropriate use of
placebo?', 'how should Mr. Logan participate in his own pain management plan?', and 'how should the nurse advocate for the patient?' To answer these question is, does deceiving the patient provide any benefit or prevent any risk? The action to question this own pain management plan?', and 'how should the nurse advocate for the patient?' To answer these questions, the Code and other resources provide any benefit or prevent any risk? The action to question this own pain management plan?', and 'how should the nurse advocate for the patient?' To answer these questions, the Code and other resources provide guidance. In Mr. Logan's case, the defining question this own pain management plan?', and 'how should the nurse advocate for the patient?' To answer these questions, the Code and other resources provide guidance. In Mr. Logan's case, the defining question this own pain management plan?', and 'how should the nurse advocate for the patient?' To answer these questions are participated and the nurse advocate for the patient of the p
 physician order suggests that nurse believes that deceiving the patient is wrong. Provision 1 of the Code states that the nurse is obligated to act with compassion and to respect the dignity and autonomy of each patient, watching him suffer, and not involving him in his plan of care achieve neither goal. Additionally,
 Provision 5 addresses preserving one's own dignity and 5.4 more specifically notes the threat to one's integrity that is done by deceiving patients and withholding information (ANA, 2015b). However, in this case, there is an inkling of doubt because of the possibility of a placebo effect. That is, the saline injection may induce some analgesic effect even
though it is not a pain medication. Also, there is some concern that while an opioid may provide short-term benefit, it could cause harm in the longer term by causing re-addiction. In Mr. Logan's case, the defining question is, does deceiving the patient provide any benefit or prevent any risk? After review of the Code and a search of the literature, Mr.
Logan's nurse understands more fully that deceiving him is wrong... Investigating the risks and benefits of placebo use and pain management in patients with histories of substance abuse will be helpful to answer this question. The American Medical Association Code of Medical Ethics prohibits use of placebo except when the patient is fully informed
(AMA, 2007). However, placebo use continues even after years of advocacy against this practice. Thus it is not surprising that there are healthcare providers still willing to use placebos, including the physician in Mr. Logan's case (Arnstein, Broglio, Wuhrman & Kean, 2011; Fassler, Meissner, Schneider, & Linde, 2010). A recent position statement by
the American Society for Pain Management Nursing supports a pain management regimen including careful monitoring and agreement with a fully-informed patient (Oliver et al., 2012). After review of the Code and a search of the literature, Mr. Logan's nurse understands more fully that deceiving him is wrong because it is disrespectful of the
patient, diminishes his autonomy, and threatens the nurse's own integrity. Using a placebo to treat Mr. Logan's pain without his consent is inappropriate for the same reasons and is not in keeping with current guidelines for pain management. The question now becomes, how should the nurse best advocate for this patient? Whether or not to advocate
 is not in doubt (Provision 3), but just how to do that is a bit more difficult. This dilemma is also an organizational issue as the nurse does not have authority to single-handedly change the prescription. Clearly, advocating will involve collaboration with a hesitant physician. The Code can provide some guidance, but some weighing and balancing of the
different provisions is necessary. In response to Mr. Logan's question, "What are you giving me?" the nurse could inform him that the physician has prescribed saline in the hopes that he would have a placebo effect. This would alleviate the concern about deception and withholding information (Provision 5.4). Conversely, this may undermine Mr.
Logan's trust in the physician as well as the nurse (Provision 1.2: Relationships with patients). In addition, it may threaten the collegial relationship that will continue long after Mr. Logan has been discharged. Provision 6 also addresses
maintaining an ethical work environment in order to support quality of care. Another alternative for the nurse is to collaborate with the physician first, bringing to light the concerns about patient deception and the evidence of inappropriate placebo use. This alternative action will hopefully have several benefits, such as increasing the likelihood of a
more effective treatment plan, maintaining patient trust in the healthcare team, and supporting a professional and collegial doctor-nurse relationship. The potential benefits of approaching the physician first suggest that this is the more sound, justifiable solution to the dilemma. The Code can provide direction for multiple levels of direct and indirect
care. Ethical issues in clinical nursing often involve not only dilemmas at the bedside, but also dilemmas at the organizational level, such as navigating a complex system to protect a patient or provide quality care or identifying ways to collaborate with colleagues to maintain strong working relationships and trust. The Code (ANA, 2015b) can provide
direction for multiple levels of direct and indirect care. The Code applies to other areas of nursing practice as well, such as nursing education, research, and policy by attending to informed consent, advocacy, and accountability of practice are examples of other professional areas of
practice with potential ethical dilemmas that make the provisions of the Code a relevant nursing resource. A Brief History of the Code of ethics and used Gretter's Nightingale Pledge, akin to medicine's Hippocratic Oath, to guide their practice. The first formal code of ethics for nurses was
adopted in 1950 (Fowler, 1997). However, a need for ethical guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s. Although in 1896, one of the initial guidance was recognized soon after modern nursing began to formalize in the mid-1800s.
accreditation processes for nursing schools took precedence (Fowler, 1997). Thus, for many years, nurses had no formalized code of ethics and used Gretter's Nightingale Pledge, akin to medicine's Hippocratic Oath, to guide their practice (ANA, n.d.). In the early 1900s, Isabel Hampton Robb's text, Nursing's Ethics for Hospital and Private Use
described the obligations of the nurse to the patient, physician, institution, self, and profession and the creativity needed to find solutions to problems and provide good nursing care (Robb, 1926). The provisions were framed in
terms of the various relationships between the nurse and patient; the nurse and medicine; and nurses and their profession. For example, the relation of the work (ANA, 1926, p. 600). The first formal Code for Professional Nurses was adopted in 1950 and was
edited slightly before being revised in 1960. At the same time as the suggested code, ethics was on the minds of nurse faculty and administrators in terms of training and educating nursing students and practicing nurses (Crawford, 1926; Ethical Problems, 1936; Ethical Problems, 1937). Their work highlights the thinking of the time
that is, that character was a significant factor in determining right action. Ms. Beulah Crawford's article, How and What to Teach in Nursing Ethics stated, "...in the end, it is the character of the nurse which makes her; if she has the right principles she will not go far wrong in the minor matters" (Crawford, 1926, p. 211) and included nursing
etiquette or rules of conduct in the hospital setting. The article provided direction about which aspects of character and living help a nurse "steer her craft safely on the stormy seas" (p. 212), such as accepting authority, being adaptable to difficult situations, being industrious, and using "judgment in the use of the tongue" (p. 212). A "Tentative Code
in 1940 (ANA, 1940) described nursing as a profession and outlined many provisions similar to those in the 1926 suggested code, including framing the provisions in terms of relationships to patient, colleagues, and profession. The first formal Code for Professional Nurses was adopted in 1950 and was edited slightly before being revised in 1960
(Fowler, 1997). The 1960 Code for Professional Nurses outlined 17 provisions beginning with the "fundamental responsibility...to conserve life, to alleviate suffering, and to promote health" and extending to accountability for practice and conduct, participation in research and "action on matters of legislation affecting nurses" (ANA, 1960, p. 1287)
 ...the Code has been revised over time to introduce obligations to advance the profession and build and maintain a healthy work environment. The 1968 revision, the provisions were simply listed with little, if any, interpretation. The new code provided brief
interpretations which helped the nurse see how the provision might be applied. Second, the provisions were reduced from 17 to a more manageable 10. Finally, there was a fundamental shift in language in the 1968 revision. The obligations of the nurse changed from generalized responsibilities to "conserve life, alleviate suffering and promote health
(ANA, 1960, p 1287) to a deeper, more duty-based obligation to "respect the dignity of man, unrestricted by considerations of nationality, race, creed, color, or status" and to "safeguard the individual's right to privacy" (ANA, 1968, p. 2582). With changes in the level of practice independence; advances in technology; societal changes; and expansion
of nursing practice into advanced practice roles, research, education, health policy, and administration, the Code has been revised over time to introduce obligations to advance the profession and build and maintain a healthy work environment (ANA, 1985; ANA, 2015b). The Modern Code of EthicsAs in the past, the current
Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements forms a central foundation for our profession to guide nurses in their decisions and conduct. It establishes an ethical standard
                 otlable in all roles and in all settings. The Code is written by nurses to express their understanding of their professional ideals. The provisions and interpretive statements reflect broad expectations without articulating exact activities of
behaviors. The 2015 Code "addresses individual as well as collective nursing intentions and actions; it requires each nurse to demonstrate ethical competence in professional life" (ANA, 2015b, p. vii). Nurse practice acts in many states incorporate the Code of Ethics. Even though the Code is primarily ethics-related, it also has legal implications. Given
the importance of the Code to the profession on so many levels, revisions continue on a regular basis. The Process for Revising the Code [The Code] is a living document that informs and is informed by advances in healthcare...
healthcare such as genomics, technology, new roles for nurses and changes in healthcare delivery. The nine provisions address the general, enduring obligations of nurses and rarely require major revision. However, the interpretive statements are more specific and address current topics and issues. Since healthcare delivery and interpretive statements are more specific and address current topics and issues.
in our society, the interpretive statements must be reviewed and revised every 10 to 12 years. Review of this process below illustrates the intentional considerations inherent to the revision, the opportunities for nurse participation at all
levels, and the impact that nurses have toward the final product. The use of technology made this recent revision of the 1985 Code (ANA, 1985) took seven years, had many onsite committee meetings, and handled over 15,000 written responses following
a solicitation for feedback, editorial comments, and suggestions. In the revision of the 2001 Code (ANA, 2001), greater use of technology resulted in a single onsite meeting. Much work was accomplished using conference calls, email, and other electronic platforms (e.g., screen sharing software) over a 4-year period from initial review to publication.
Table 1 provides a timeline of the most recent Code revision process. Nurses participating in the revision process took advantage of technology for online comment was solicited by mailing multiple copies of
the draft manuscript to the state nurses' associations and other associations, which were then edited and returned to the ANA. Table 1: Timeline of the Revision October 2010 Initial discussion of process for Code review June 2012 Code Review Working Group appointed February 2013
through April 2013 Online survey comment period and analysis of survey findings May 2013 Recommendation from the Ethics Advisory Board that the revision May 2014 through June 2014 Draft revision posted for public
comment; suggestions evaluated November 2014 Approved by ANA Board of Directors for publication The process for the most recent revision began with an initial review by the ANA Ethics Advisory board of the current Code provisions and interpretive statements, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) code (ICN, 2012), and the codes of other
health professions such as pharmacy, occupational therapy, and public health. This extensive revision. A qualitative content analysis (Miles & Huberman, 1994;
Patton, 2002) of the 2783 public comment responses was conducted. The summary report of this analysis included recommendations to revise the 2001 Code (ANA, 2001) for the following reasons: Time and Relevance Thirteen years had passed since the previous Code revision. New issues had important ethical implications to address in the Code.
These included the widespread use of social media and resultant threats to privacy; use of emerging technologies throughout health care; growing importance of inter-professional collaboration; a stronger and more direct consideration of social justice as a core value; and an inclusion of global health responsibilities of the profession. Clarity
Comments on the first seven provisions and interpretive statements were not sufficiently compelling to warrant a substantive revision. However, comments on the remaining provisions, Provisions 8 had changed in a way that it had lost its original meaning and thus had a
dual focus that needed to be unified and sharpened. Provision 9 was different in that it was both new and unique in the history of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001. Now that it had become an accepted part of the Code when approved in 2001.
for the Code. Access to Resources Links were recommended to provide access to various ANA position statements: Scopes and Standards of Practice; and the Social Policy Statement (ANA, 2010) to facilitate navigation through all the major resources of the ANA as well as links to external resources that support or elaborate on content in the Code.
Nursing Roles and Advocacy Recommendations were made to specifically address the role of nurse executives in the Code, to ensure a climate for ethical practice environment for nurses, and to address the roles and responsibilities of APRNs. The nurses' role in leadership, advocacy, and collective action for
social justice should be highlighted to underscore the urgent need to address determinants of health. The nurses' voice in social and health policy should be strengthened to add to the unified efforts on behalf of all in the profession. After recommendations were accepted, the ANA website, NursingWorld, posted a call with an invitation to participate
in the revision. More than 400 nurses volunteered; from these 15 were selected to serve on the Code Steering Committee (SC). Between September 2013 and April 2014, a draft revision was prepared. Throughout the process of writing and editing, a Code scholar with several publications on the nursing Code of Ethics (Fowler, 1985; 1992; 1997;
2010; & 2015) and participation experience in the 2001 code revision simultaneously reviewed and edited the drafts. In May 2014, the edited draft was posted for public comment. By early June, nearly 1,000 individuals had posted suggestions for changes, clarifications, additions, or deletions. Each suggestion was evaluated using the analysis
processes described above, preserving the essential and eliminating the incidental. Further revisions were made based on this additional analysis. A final version of the 2015 Code was approved by the ANA Board of Directors in November 2014 and was published on NursingWorld in January 2015. Changes in the 2015 Code of Ethics for NursesThe
revision process led to several significant changes in the 2015 Code of Ethics. The revision process led to several significant changes in the 2015 Code of Ethics," "incivility in the workplace," "pain and suffering,"
and "evidence informed practice" have been added. Other broad changes include increased emphasis on nursing leadership; renewed emphasis on the inclusion of the nurse's role in global health. The preface was revised to strengthen the
purpose of the Code, the ethical framework, and the context. A new introduction now clarifies terms such as "patient," "client," and "should." A glossary of terms was added and a list of online resources and other support documents will be posted on the ANA website.
The Code Provisions have been reworded to be more concise and better articulate their intent, although the general structure remains the same as the 2001 Code (ANA, 2001). For example, the first three provisions still describe the most fundamental values and commitments of the nurse; the next three address boundaries of duty and loyalty, and the
last three address aspects of duties beyond individual patient encounters. Finally, there were significant changes to the interpretive statements, where content has been updated to improve relevance to modern day practice, reorganized for consistency with the wording in the provisions, and revised to reduce redundancy. Summary: Implications for
PracticeThe Code is an important document that can provide effective guidance as the nurse negotiates the complexities inherent to many situations. This article has suggested several implications for nursing practice including consideration of the everyday nature of ethical concerns in nursing at multiple levels, the usefulness of the Code (ANA,
2015b) as a guide, and the importance of an inclusive and thorough process for revising the Code. Each day, situations arise for nurses that require both decision and action, and may include ethical dilemmas. Examples of those most common include errors and near misses, delegation, end-of-life care, use of technology and fatigue. Managing these
challenges well contributes to safe, compassionate, quality care. The Code (ANA, 2015b) is an important document that can provide effective guidance as the nurse negotiates the complex ethical problems alone, using only a code
of ethics. Often, other resources are needed to grasp the full complexity of an ethical dilemma. Selected potentially helpful online resources are listed in Table 2. Today's professional nurses are engaged in ethical challenges in a wide variety of settings. The following recommendations can be helpful at any level of practice:
Research hospital policies and legal information related to the concern under review. Consider an ethical problems. However, professional codes of ethics provide support and direction about behavior(s). Consider the three levels of ethical
engagement when reviewing a dilemma, specifically the broad, societal level (e.g., hospital system obligations to its employees, hierarchical structures, bed allocation); and
the clinical level (e.g., withdrawal of aggressive treatment, surrogate decision making). Participate in the process for Code revision. Nurses in every role and every setting were invited to, and did, participate in the process. When the next call is made, take time to
offer your suggestions to ensure the Code continues to remain a relevant resource for practice. Table 2. Online Resources 2015 ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretation www.nursingworld.org/principles Of relevance are the principles for delegation, nurse staffing, collaborative relationships, social
networking, delegation ANA Nursespace Forum for discussion on specific topics, blog, professional issues ANA Position Statements on Ethics and Human Rights Statements on ethical nursing practice (e.g., non-punitive treatment for pregnant women, nursing care and DNR, restraint use) International Council of Nurses Federation of over 100
nursing associations Addresses nursing care, health policy, and nursing education globally Online Journal of Health Ethics Multidisciplinary journal providing a forum for health-related ethics issues Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues Appointed commission to address ethical issues of national significance (e.g., stem cell
research, Ebola) Today's Code (ANA, 2015b) is a result of the ANA's long-standing commitment to support nurses in their daily life and practice. The process for the 2015 Code revisions used technology to a great advantage. This provided an avenue for a highly participatory process to receive input from all nurses in every type of practice and allow
working groups to collaborate efficiently and effectively with a minimum of travel. Recognizing that nursing practice extends from horizon to horizon—from the bedside to the classroom, from the executive suite to the laboratory bench—the 2015 Code continues to provide all nurses with a firm foundation for ethical practice AuthorsBeth Epstein, PhD,
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Ball State University in Muncie, IN for an MA in counseling psychology. Martha retired in January 2006 from Active Duty with the Air Force after 30 years. She was a flight nurse and achieved the rank of Colonel. Dr. Turner was the Consultant for Healthcare Ethics to the Air Force Surgeon General from 1998 until 2006. Her responsibilities included
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committee from 1997-2002 and the Ethics Advisory Council of the Oncology Nurse Society from 1994-1996. Most recently (2010-2014) she staffed the revision coordinator and co-lead writer. © 2015 OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing Article
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Journal of Nursing Scholarship, 47(2): 117-125. doi:10.1111/jnu.12115 Citation: Epstein, B., Turner, M., (May 31, 2015) "The Nursing Code of Ethics: Its Value, Its History" OJIN: The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing Vol. 20, No. 2, Manuscript 4. Pamela A. Kulbok, DNSc, RN, APHN-BC, FAAN; Joan Kub, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN; Doris F. Glick, PhD, RN Joan Kub PhD, MA, PHCNS, BC, FAAN; Pamela A. Kulbok, DNSc, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN; Doris Glick, PhD, RN Deborah S. Finnell, DNS, APRN-BC, CARN-AP, FAAN; Elizabeth L. Thomas, MEd RN, NCSN, FNASN; Wendy M. Nehring, RN, PhD, FAAN, FAAIDD; Kris A. McLoughlin, DNP, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN; Carol J. Bickford, PhD, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FAAN Richard Henker PhD, RN, CRNA, FAAN; Manila Prak RN, BSN; Virya Koy, RN, SNA, MNSc, MHPEd Pamela A. Kulbok, DNSc, RN, APHN-BC, FAAN; Joan Kub, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN; Joan Kub, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN; Doris F. Glick, PhD, RN, ArticleSeptember 06, 2017 Nurses in the Know: The History and Future of Advance Directives Historical Perspectives on an Expanded Role for Nursing Arlene W. Keeling, PhD, RN, FAAN The nursing code of ethics, or Code of Ethics for Nurses, establishes ethical principles in nursing. Far more than just words on paper, the code is nursing's north star. It governs how nurses should behave during the vulnerable moments when patients place their trust, their care and perhaps even life and death decisions into their hands. Established by the American Nurses Association (ANA), the Code of Ethics for Nurses "informs every aspect of the nurse's life." As such, the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses is the profession's non-negotiable standard. The nursing code of ethics is also a dynamic document, and one that has responded over time to healthcare, technological and social changes. The origins of nursing ethics reach back to the late 1800s — a far different era when nurses weren't viewed as valued members of a healthcare team as they are today. And concepts like justice in nursing? Well, let's just say that wasn't a thing back then. Times have changed. Formally adopted by the ANA in 1950, the Code of Ethics for Nurses is revised approximately every decade to keep pace with advances in healthcare and technology, greater awareness of global health, greater inclusivity and the expansion of nursing into advanced practice. © Copyright 2025 Alice Petiprin, NursingTheory.org. All Rights Reserved

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