Nursing Code of Ethics

Ethics and morals help nurses determine and implement safe and effective care. The American Nurses Association encourages nurses to not only analyze and remain steady in their own values and beliefs but to also openly discuss differing ethical principles. The goal of nursing is to maximize the patient's values while also meeting their comprehensive needs.



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Nursing Code of Ethics

Ethical Principles

Ethical-elephant with Pencils

The American Nurses Association is one of the organizations that determine the nursing standard with regards to ethics and the overall nursing profession. The code of ethics guides nurses' daily decision-making in order to ensure that patients receive the safest and most compassionate care. It consists of several principles and has been recently edited with an additional nine provisions. Within these principles, the importance of prioritization being the patient advocate is at the forefront. Nurses must adhere to these principles in order to remain ethically sound while implementing safe nursing interventions. These principles are autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, fidelity, veracity, and accountability.

Nurse to Patient

Patient

The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient. This encompasses the individual, family members, and their community. Integrating respect within nursing care begins with establishing rapport with the patient and their support team. The patient's socioeconomic status, health problems, and other attributes must be all respected by the nurse. By doing so, the nurse will be able to provide dignified care.

Nurse to Nurse

Nurse

In the healthcare workplace, there is an opportunity for each nurse to establish strong relationships with their peers. Teamwork is an element within the nursing field that is crucial in delivering the best care for all patients. The nurse is responsible for creating a harmonious relationship with other nurses at work.

Nurse to Self

Mirror

The nurse will participate in acceptance of accountability, continuing education, and delegation of tasks in order to provide optimal care. The responsibility of preserving integrity, professionalism, and maintaining competency belongs to the nurse. Self-evaluation and self reflections will foster change within the nurse, seeking professional ideals within the community.

Nurse to Others

Others

The nursing field's roots are associated by its individuals; which further emphasizes the importance of the connection of the person with the nursing values. Collaborating together will promote advancement in education, administration, and practices in order to expand one's knowledge development.

Nurse to Profession

Professional Briefcase

The responsibility to maintain and improve nursing health care environments is embedded into the value of the nursing profession. Within this environment, the nurse must foster moral and respectful interactions with peers. Identification of issues and addressing them promptly, supporting colleagues, and workplace advocacy are a number of professional responsibilities nurses have to their workplace.

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Nurse to Society

Society

The profession of nursing is associated with all of its members, the representation of its values, and maintaining the integrity of the nursing practice and organization. There is a collective responsibility within all of its members to create social change, helping shape the healthcare system - especially in regards to legislation and policy-making. The profession can assist in advocating for the homeless, speaking forward about violations of human rights, and other failed systems.

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