Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Indian Nursing Council
New Delhi

KEY WORDS

A promise that you will definitely **Assurance** do something A state of dynamic of an Health individual's ability to perform personally valued roles and responsibilities, to deal and cope with physical, biological, psychological and social stresses and challenges throughout the life while continuing to maintain sense of wellbeing. Nurse is a person who has Nurse completed prescribed course in nursing from an institution recognized by Indian nursing council and registered herself/himself under the State Nursing Council as Nurse and Midwife. Nursing is a professional service for Nursing enabling a person to maintain and sustain health and well being. Selected behaviors which illustrate Performance criteria how the standard is achieved. Set of activities expected from **Practice standards** professional group of workers.

Personal etiquettes

Being polite & soft spoken, honest, sincere, cheerful, dignified, affectionate, compassionate and courteous.

Professional etiquettes

Being attentive listener, keen observer, objective, non-judgmental, empathetic, confident, assertive, disciplined, prompt and efficient.

Professional body/ Regulatory body Indian Nursing Council / State Nursing Council is statutory body which regulates the nursing education and practice in India.

Professional Worker

A person who confirms to a level of practice that is expert and ethical after completing an authorized educational programme.

Provider

Same as nurse

Quality Nursing Practice Quality of nursing practice is achieved when organization's processes and activities are designed and implemented to meet the needs and expectations of the receiver on a competent, consistent and continuous basis.

Quality Assurance in Nursing	Quality assurance is a program for formal guarantee for provision of quality nursing care against set standards.
Rationale	Reasoning for the standards.
Receiver	Receiver (S) refer to those individual persons/ families/ groups/ communities who are in need of assistance from nurse to maintain and sustain their health and well-being.
Standards	Level of performance required for obtaining a specified desired outcome.
Vulnerable	Vulnerable persons are those who are disadvantaged due to physical, emotional and social and economic reasons e.g., - Mentally and physically challenged person - Emotionally traumatized persons - Women, children marginalized groups
Well being	It is an active state of a person with maximum potential by maintaining balance and is at peace with inner and outer world.

CODE OF ETHICS & Professional Conduct

Introduction

The code of professional conduct for nurses is critical for building professionalism and accountability. Ethical considerations are vital in any area dealing with human beings because they represent values, rights and relationships. The nurse must have professional competence, responsibility and accountability with moral obligations. Nurse is obliged to provide services even if it is in conflict with her/his personal beliefs and values.

Purpose

The purpose of professional conduct is to inform both the nurse and the society of the minimum standard for professional conduct. It provides regulatory bodies a basis for decisions regarding standards of professional conduct.

The code of ethics helps to protect the rights of individuals, families and community and also the rights of the nurse.

The Use of the Code

- Acknowledges the rightful place of individuals in health care delivery system.
- Contributes towards empowerment of individuals to become responsible for their health and well-being
- Contributes to quality care
- Identifies obligations in practice, research and relationships
- Informs the individuals, families, community and other professionals about expectations of a nurse

Code of Ethics for Nurses in India



The nurse respects the uniqueness of individual in provision of care

- 1.1 Provides care for individuals without consideration of caste, creed, religion, culture, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic and political status, personal attributes, or any other grounds
- 1.2 Individualizes the care considering the beliefs, values and cultural sensitivities
- 1.3 Appreciates the place of individual in the family and community and facilitates participation of significant others in the care
- 1.4 Develops and promotes trustful relationship with individual (S)
- 1.5 Recognizes uniqueness of response of individuals to interventions and adapts accordingly



The nurse respects the rights of individuals as partner in care and help in making informed choices

- 2.1 Appreciates individual's right to make decisions about their care and therefore gives adequate and accurate information for enabling them to make informed choices
- 2.2 Respects the decisions made by individual (s) regarding their care
- 2.3 Protects public from misinformation and misinterpretations
- 2.4 Advocates special provisions to protect vulnerable individuals/ groups.



The nurse respects individual's right to privacy, maintains confidentiality, and shares information judiciously

- 3.1 Respect the individual's right to privacy of their personal information
- 3.2 Maintains confidentiality of privileged information except in life threatening situations and uses discretion in sharing information.
- 3.3 Takes informed consent and maintains anonymity when information is required for quality assurance/ academic/ legal reasons
- 3.4 Limits the access to all personal records written and computerized to authorized persons only



Nurse maintains competence in order to render Quality Nursing Care

- 4.1 Nursing care must be provided only by registered nurse
- 4.2 Nurse strives to maintain quality nursing care and upholds the standards of care
- 4.3 Nurse values continuing education, initiates and utilizes all opportunities for self development
- 4.4 Nurse values research as a means of development of nursing profession and participates in nursing research adhering to ethical principles



The nurse if obliged to practice within the framework of ethical, professional and legal boundaries

- 5.1 Adheres to code of ethics and code of professional conduct for nurses in India developed by Indian Nursing Council
- 5.2 Familiarizes with relevant laws and practices in accordance with the law of the state



Nurses is obliged to work harmoniously with members of the health team

Nurse

- 6.1 Appreciates the team efforts in rendering care
- 6.2 Cooperates, coordinates and collaborates with members of the health team to meet the needs of people



Nurse commits to reciprocate the trust invested in nursing profession by society

- 7.1 Demonstrates personal etiquettes in all dealings
- 7.2 Demonstrates professional attributes in all dealings

Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in India



Professional Responsibility and accountability

- 1.1 Appreciates sense of self-worth and nurses it
- 1.2 Maintains standards of personal conduct reflecting credit upon the profession
- 1.3 Carries out responsibilities within the framework of the professional boundaries
- 1.4 Is accountable for maintaining practice standards set by Indian Nursing Council
- 1.5 Is accountable for own decisions and actions
- 1.6 Is compassionate
- 1.7 Is responsible for continuous improvement of current practices
- 1.8 Provides adequate information to individuals that allows them informed choices
- 1.9 Practices healthful behavior



Nursing Practice

- 2.1 Provides care in accordance with set standards of practice
- 2.2 Treats all individuals and families with human dignity in providing physical, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of care
- 2.3 Respects individuals and families in the context of traditional and cultural practices, promoting healthy practices and discouraging harmful practices
- 2.4 Presents realistic picture truthfully in all situations for facilitating autonomous decision-making by individuals and families
- 2.5 Promotes participation of individuals and significant other in the care
- 2.6 Ensure safe practice
- 2.7 Consults, coordinates, collaborates and follows up appropriately when individuals care needs exceed the nurses competence



Communication and Interpersonal Relationships

- 3.1 Establishes and maintains effective interpersonal relationships with individuals, families and communities
- 3.2 Upholds the dignity of team members and maintains effective interpersonal relationship with them
- 3.3 Appreciates and nurtures professional role of team members
- 3.4 Cooperates with other health professionals to meet the needs of the individuals, families and communities



Valuing Human Being

- 4.1 Take appropriate action to protect individuals from harmful unethical practice
- 4.2 Considers relevant facts while taking conscience decisions in the best interest of individuals
- 4.3 Encourages and supports individuals in their right to speak for themselves on issues affecting their and welfare
- 4.4 Respects and supports choices made by individuals



Management

- 5.1 Ensures appropriate allocation and utilization of available resources
- 5.2 Participates in supervision and education of students and other formal care providers
- 5.3 Uses judgment in relation to individual competence while accepting and delegating responsibility
- 5.4 Facilitates conductive work culture in order to achieve institutional objectives
- 5.5 Communicates effectively following appropriate channels of communication
- 5.6 Participates in performance appraisal
- 5.7 Participates in evaluation of nursing services
- 5.8 Participates in policy decisions, following the principle of equity and accessibility of services
- 5.9 Works with individuals to identify their needs and sensitizes policy makers and funding agencies for resources allocation



Professional Advancement

- 6.1 Ensure the protection of the human rights while pursuing the advancement of knowledge
- 6.2 Contributes to the development of nursing practice
- 6.3 Participates in determining and implementing quality care
- 6.4 Take responsibility for updating own knowledge and competencies
- 6.5 Contributes to core of professional knowledge by conducting and participating in research

The Florence Nightingale Pledge

I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly, to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. 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 I will devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

Nurse's Song by William Blake

When voices of children are heard on the green,

And laughing is heard on the hill,

My heart is at rest within my breast,

And everything else is still.

Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down,

And the dews of night arise;

Come, come, leave off play, and let us away,

Till the morning appears in the skies.'

'No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,
And we cannot go to sleep;
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly,
And the hills are all covered with sheep.'
"Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,
And then go home to bed.'
The little ones leaped, and shouted, and laughed,
And all the hills echoed.