“First, do no harm.”

Nurses’ obligation to self, others, and the greater good.

Review the Code of Ethics for Nurses
- Duty to Patients, Profession & Community
Compare & Contrast to:
- Patient’s Bill of Rights
- Nurses’ Bill of Rights

"...to help, or at least do no harm."

Hippocratic Oath

The Florence Nightingale Pledge

“I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug.”
Melobosis…
A Goddess of Beneficence…
1st principle of morality

Codes of Ethics
• Primary Identifying Mark of a Profession
• Spells out Norms of Behavior
• Ethical Norms of a Profession
• Jointly Articulate Norms of a 'Moral' Profession
• Professional (Societal) Morality
• Upholding the
  - dignity of,
  - respect for, and
  - responsibility to the individual patient.

Code of Ethics for Nurses
• © 2001 American Nurses Association
• Content of the Code for Nurses with Interpretive Statements is nonnegotiable
• Two Components:
  1. 9 Provisions
  2. Interpretive Statements

Respect for Persons
1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.

Patient rights and ethics are supported
“If we cannot name it, we cannot control it, finance it, teach it, research it or put it into public policy.”


**Respect-Autonomy**

The patient participates in decisions affecting his or her plan of care.
- Verifies consent for planned procedure.
- Identifies individual values and wishes concerning care.
- Provides information and explains Patient Self-Determination Act.

**Respect**

The patient’s value system, life-style, ethnicity, and culture are considered, respected, and incorporated into the plan of care.
- Identifies and reports philosophical, cultural, and spiritual beliefs and values.

**Commitment to the Patient**

2 The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community.
- Advocacy: Primacy of Patient’s Interest
- Collaboration
- Conflicts of Interests

**Commitment to Patient**

The patient’s care is consistent with the individualized plan of care.
- Develops individualized plan of care.
- Obtains consultation from appropriate care providers to initiate new treatments or change existing treatments.
- Ensures continuity of care.

**Privacy & Confidentiality**

3 The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.
- Privacy
- Confidentiality
- Protection of Research Subjects
- Competency
- Safe Staffing Practices
- HIPPA
Privacy Rights

The patient's right to privacy is maintained.
- Secures patient's records, belongings, valuables.
- Maintains patient's dignity and privacy.
- Maintains patient confidentiality.

Competency

Acts as a patient advocate by protecting the patient from incompetent, unethical, or illegal practices.

Competency

The patient is the recipient of competent and ethical care within legal standards of practice.
- Provides care without prejudicial behavior.
- Provides care respecting worth and dignity regardless of diagnosis, disease process, procedure, or projected outcome.
- Shares patient information only with those directly involved in care.

Accountability & Responsibility

4 The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care.

Accountable for...

The patient is the recipient of competent and ethical care within legal standards of practice.
- Scope of Practice:
  - Licensure & Certification
  - Regulations, State, Professional Obligations
  - Prerequisite Knowledge & Skills
  - Answerable to one's self, peers, profession.
- Accountable Practice, e.g. Standards
- Delegation of nursing activities

Duty to Self

5 The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.
- Personal & Professional Integrity
- Societal Ethical & Moral Obligations as RNs
Health Care Environment

The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving *health care environments* and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.

Ethical Environment

- Communication
- Nurse-Physician Relationships
- Promoting an Effective Work Environment
  - Staffing
  - Economics
  - Allocation Resources
  - Services Provided
  - Community Responsibilities
  - HIPPA

Ethical Administration of Nursing Services

1. Frugality & therapeutic elegance
2. Clinical Credibility through organizational competence
3. Presence
4. Responsible representation
5. Loyal service
6. Deliberate delegation
7. Responsible innovation
8. Fiduciary accountability
9. Self-discipline
10. Continuous learning

Advancing the Profession

The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development.

Ethical Practice Issues

- In the absence of research, one may use
  1. Ethical Analysis, or
  2. Scientific Principles.
- Absence of research to support practice, probably an ethical issue in determining what "one ought to do" or what is best practice.


Health, Welfare, & Safety

The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
Values, Integrity, & Social Policy

The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.

Collective Responsibility

ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

- Intraprofessional Integrity: Explications of the Code of Ethics for Nurses
- Social Reform: 9 Provisions of the Code

Patient Bill of Rights

- Information Disclosure
- Choice of Providers/Plans
- Emergency Access
- Participate in Treatment Decisions
- Respect & Nondiscrimination
  - Informed of Policy
- Confidentiality of Health Information
- Advanced Directive
- Advised of Rights & Responsibilities
- Complaints & Appeals
- Right to Decline Research
- Reasonable Continuity

The ANA Bill of Rights for Registered Nurses (2001)

1. Nurses have the right to practice in a manner that fulfills their obligations to society and those who receive nursing care.

2. Nurses have the right to practice in environments that allow them to act in accordance with professional standards and legally authorized scopes of practice.

3. Nurses have the right to a work environment that supports and facilitates ethical practice, in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Nurses and its interpretive statements.

4. Nurses have the right to freely and openly advocate for themselves and their patients, without fear of retribution.

5. Nurses have the right to fair compensation for their work, consistent with their knowledge, experience and professional responsibilities.

6. Nurses have the right to a work environment that is safe for themselves and their patients.

7. Nurses have the right to negotiate the conditions of their employment, either as individuals or collectively, in all practice settings.
ETHICAL Resources

- Ethics Advisory Committee
- Ethics Consultation Service
- Professional Leadership
- Publications – APEX award for Professional Journalism.
- AORN Module
- Ethics Brown Bags
- Annual UW Nursing Ethics Conference (July)

Ethics Advisory Committee & Clinical Ethics Consultation Service

http://depts.washington.edu/mhedept/

http://www.nursingworld.org/ethics/about.htm

An Ethic of Care

"...based on the relationship between the person caring and the person receiving care."


...caring, moral imperative of nursing