



**Teacher subject:**

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**PhD in Community Health Nursing .**

## **LECTURE ONE**

### **Nursing Ethics**

Are the principles of proper professional conduct concerning the rights and duties of nurses themselves, their patients, and their fellow practitioners, as well as their actions in the care of patients and in relations with their families.

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**professional ethics** the ethical norms, values, and principles that guide a profession and the ethics of decisions made within the profession.

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**medical ethics** the values and guidelines control decisions in medical practice.  
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**Ethical Responsibilities of Nurses:**

Every profession has a code of ethics that outlines the ethical responsibilities of practicing as a member of that profession. Codes of ethics from different professions might focus on issues specific to practice in that field, but all share elements regarding the importance of honesty and not taking actions that will lead to harm to others. Codes of ethics for the nursing profession tend to focus on professional behavior and making sure that decision-making is patient focused as much as possible.

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**1.Respect for Others**

A nurse must respect the dignity and value of patients and colleagues, and treat all persons equally regardless of personal attributes or medical condition. Related to this is the responsibility to always respect the patient's right to self-determination in her medical care. As followings:

**2.Commitment or obligation to Patient right**

One of a nurse's primary ethical responsibilities is to work with the patient to provide care that maximally enables the physical, emotional and social well-being of the patient. A nurse is also responsible for protecting and advocating for patient safety and rights, especially in terms of upholding the highest standards of patient privacy and confidentiality according to the law.

### **3.Honesty and Self-Integrity**

Nurses also have an ethical responsibility to be honest with patients and colleagues, and to maintain self-integrity or self-clean and high personal moral standards. Nurses have a personal responsibility to maintain professional competence and try or strive towards personal and professional growth so as to provide the best possible care to patients.

### **4.Professional Responsibilities**

A nurse also has a number of ethical responsibilities relating to the profession of nursing and her specialty. One key responsibility is to always try or strive to improve both health care environments and conditions of employment to maximize the quality of health care delivery. Nurses also have a responsibility to work with the public and other medical professionals to foster local school or community, national and international efforts to improve health care systems on all levels.

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### **What Is Professional Responsibility in Nursing?**

Professional responsibility as applied to nurses refers to the ethical and moral obligations to work in the nursing profession. These standards relate to patient care, collaboration with other medical professionals, integrity, morals and the responsibility to apply social change. Nurses must learn these rules during their schooling, whether they are becoming a registered nurse or certified nurse practitioner. Ethical violations could result in a loss of license or loss of organization in nursing profession by nursing board.

### **1.Patient's Interests**

The nurses must respect for the patient's self-determination, regardless of the patient's sex, age, nationality, race or medical condition. Nurses must always resolve conflicts of interest in ways to ensure patient safety and guard professional integrity. Part of this responsibility is the nurse's duty to collaborate fully with the entire treatment team, including doctors, other nurses and specialists.

## **2. Advocacy and Responsibility**

The nurse has a duty to advocate for her patients. She must work to advance the patient's legal rights, privacy protections and right to choose whether or not to participate in medical research. As an advocate, the nurse must ensure that she meets all qualification and state licensure regulations prior to participating in nursing activities and must be helped other new staffs. At all times, nurses have the professional duty to accept personal responsibility for their actions and are accountable for nursing judgment and action. This accountability extends to situations in which the nurse delegates duties to a colleague.

## **3. Values and Morals**

The nurse has a duty of self-respect and morality to herself as well as those around her, including patients. Nurses must maintain constant or fixed professional growth and commitment to lifelong learning. The nurse must manifest a complete positive character, meaning her virtuous character extends beyond the workplace and into her personal life. Nurses are expected to be moral and express wisdom, courage and honesty. Nurses in a leadership role must provide employees an opportunity to express duties in a positive way and create environments that foster ethical nursing practices.

## **4. Community Education**

Nurses have an ethical duty to spread knowledge and information about health, wellness and the avoidance of disease. Nurses should advance the profession by participating in community outreach programs and civil activities related to health care. Nurses have a duty to stay with of national and global health concerns, outbreaks, epidemics and infectious diseases. A nurse must also stay educated about vaccines, world hunger, pollution, lack of access to health care, violations of human rights and the equitable distribution of nursing services.

### **5.Obligation of Ethical Standards**

Nurses have a responsibility to maintain open and constant debate or discussion with colleagues about ethical issues. Nurses must assure the values of the profession to other members and carry out collective limitation through registration in professional associations. Nurses must stay actively involved in discussions and debate related to social change and reform, particularly those related to access to health care, homelessness and the stigma of illness.

### **References**

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