

# LOS ANGELES GENERAL MEDICAL CENTER DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SERVICES POLICY

Subject: <b>PROFESSIONAL ETHICS CODE FOR NURSES WITH INTERPRETIVE STATEMENTS</b>	Original Issue Date: 08/91	Policy # <b>200</b>
	Supersedes: 06/21	Effective Date: 01/24
Departments Consulted:	Reviewed & Approved by: Professional Practice Committee Nurse Executive Committee	Approved by:  (signature on file) Nancy Blake Chief Nursing Officer

## PURPOSE

To provide a guideline for nurses, who are involved in patient care to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with quality care and the ethical commitment of the profession.

The American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* serves the following purposes:

- As a statement of the ethical values, obligations, duties, and professional ideals of nurses who enter the profession of nursing.
- It is the profession's non-negotiable ethical standard
- It is an expression of nursing's own understanding of its commitment to society.

## POLICY

### **Provision 1**

The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

- Respect for Human Dignity
- Relationships with Patients
- The Nature of Health Problems
- The Right to Self-Determination
- Relationships with Colleagues and Others

### **Provision 2**

The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

- Primacy of the Patient's Interests
- Conflict of Interest for Nurses
- Collaboration
- Professional Boundaries

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**Provision 3**

The nurse promotes, advocates for and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

- Protection of the Rights of Privacy and Confidentiality
- Protection of Human Participants in Research
- Performance Standards and Review Mechanisms
- Professional Responsibility in Promoting a Culture of Safety
- Protection of Patient Health and Safety by Acting on Questionable Practice
- Patient Protection and Impaired Practice

**Provision 4**

The nurse has accountability and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal patient care.

- Acceptance of Accountability and Responsibility
- Accountability for Nursing Judgments and Actions
- Responsibility for Nursing Judgments and Actions
- Delegation of Nursing Activities or Tasks

**Provision 5**

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.

- Moral and self-respect to self and others
- Promotion of Personal Health, Safety, and Well-Being
- Preservation of Wholeness of Character
- Preservation of Integrity
- Maintenance of Competence and Continuation of Professional Growth
- Continuation of Personal Growth

**Provision 6**

The Nurse facilitates improvements of the work environment that are conducive to safe, quality healthcare.

- The Environment and Moral Virtue
- The Environment and Ethical Obligation
- Responsibility for the Healthcare Environment

**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.

- Contributions through Research and Scholarly Inquiry

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- Contributions through Developing, Maintaining, and Implementing Professional Practice Standards
- Contributions through Nursing and Health Policy Development

**Provision 8**

The nurse collaborates with the healthcare team and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy and reduce health disparities.

- Health Is a Universal Right
- Collaboration for Health, Human Rights, and Health Diplomacy
- Obligation to Advance Health and Human Rights and Reduce Disparities
- Collaboration for Human Rights in Complex, Extreme, or Extraordinary Practice Settings

**Provision 9**

The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

- Articulation and Assertion of Values
- Integrity of the Profession
- Integrating Social Justice
- Social Justice in Nursing and Health Policy

**REFERENCE**

American Nurses Association (2015). *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements*  
California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 70707

**REVISION DATES**

1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 05/98, 01/05, 09/08, 12/13, 12/18, 06/21, 01/ 24