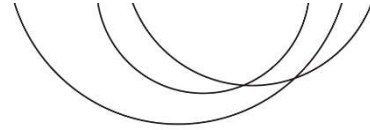




JNA CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES

JAPANESE NURSING ASSOCIATION
2021



PREAMBLE

People hope to maintain their dignity as humans, and to stay healthy and happy. The mission of nursing is to satisfy such universal human needs and contribute to the achievement of healthy living throughout people's lifetime.

The scope of nursing includes individuals, families, groups, and local communities of all generations. Nursing aims to support people while empowering them so that they can fulfill their lives that suit them throughout their lifetime, by maintaining and promoting health, preventing illness, recovering health, and relieving suffering.

Nurses are persons who are authorized to practice nursing by license. In the practice of nursing, it is required to respect people's right to live, right to maintain dignity, right to receive respectful nursing, right to receive equitable nursing, and other human rights. At the same time, nursing needs to be practiced with the pride.

The Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) Code of Ethics for Nurses provides action guidelines for nurses who practice in all kinds of settings and functions as a basis for reviewing their practice. The JNA Code of Ethics also delineates, for society, the scope of responsibility that nurses undertake as professionals in the practice of nursing.

CODE

1

Nurses respect human life, human dignity, and human rights.

All people have the right¹ to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health, without being restricted by their nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, belief, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, social position, economic status, lifestyle, or the nature of health problems. Nurses are professionals who support the health and lives of people in all kinds of settings and always respect human life, dignity, and rights with high ethical standards in their actions.

Nurses respect human life, human dignity, and human rights in all kinds of settings, and always endeavor to contribute to the attainment of healthy living that suits the person with warm humane sensitivity.

2

Nurses provide equitable nursing to persons who are in their care.

Equitable nursing not only refers to the mere provision of equal nursing but signifies the provision of nursing that matches the individual characteristics and needs of each person. The recognition of health and lifestyles has been changing as society changes, and people's nursing needs have become increasingly diversified and complicated. To satisfy people's diversified and complicated needs, nurses provide nursing that matches the nature of health problems and the environment that surrounds people with high sensitivity and endeavor to contribute to their health and happiness.

Nurses are also respectful and receptive to the habits, attitudes, cultural backgrounds, and philosophies of individuals.

¹ The World Health Organization (WHO) states, in the preamble to its Constitution, "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition." Referring to this principle, the JNA Code of Ethics for Nurses is based on the idea that it is one of the human rights to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health.

3 Nurses establish a relationship of trust with persons who are being cared for and provide nursing based on that relationship.

Nursing is based not only on advanced knowledge and skills, but also on the relationship of trust established with the persons who are being cared for.

Nurses endeavor to establish and develop a relationship of trust by cooperating with people for better health, responding to their trust with sincerity, providing adequate explanation about their practice to obtain understanding and consent, and take responsibility for the outcome of practice.

Nurses are aware that the nursing they practice is the provision of professional support, and never develop this supportive relationship into a personal relationship.

Nurses urge persons who are being cared for to proactively participate in the process of receiving healthcare and welfare services so that their opinions and intentions will be incorporated. Nurses also identify the apparent and potential abilities of people and support them in maximizing their abilities.

4 Nurses respect people's rights and support them to make choices that match their intentions and values.

People have the right to know and the right of self-determination. Nurses respect these rights, provide adequate information, support their decision-making, and respect the values and intention of each individual concerning healthcare and welfare, and lifestyle. Nurses provide and share information to support people's decision-making and accompany them in the process of forming decisions the best choices for the person.

People may choose healthcare and welfare services based on adequate information, may choose not to know such information, or may choose to entrust the decision-making to others. When it is difficult for the person to express his/her will, nurses provide information suitable for the person, obtain the person's understanding, infer his/her intention, and collaborate with all related persons to form the best agreement for the person. Nurses act as advocates for people's rights, including representing them, when necessary, to ensure that people receive healthcare and welfare services consistent with their values and intentions, and achieve a life they desire. Nurses support people in making decisions and choices our best for them at the time.

5 Nurses respect the confidentiality of persons who are being cared for and properly handle personal information.

To practice appropriate personalized nursing, nurses frequently come to know confidential information of persons who are being cared for. Nurses must not disclose confidential information that they come to know in the course of their duties without due reason.

To improve the health of persons who are being cared for, it is necessary to obtain personal information as well as to share information closely and accurately with other professionals. Personal information not only refers to names and dates of birth, but also includes images, audio recording, and genetic information.

When obtaining and sharing personal information, nurses take proper measures, including the explanation of the necessity of such information and the obtaining consent from the persons who are being cared for. Nurses also make the maximum effort to obtain consent from the persons who are being cared for before sharing information with their families.

Various social media have been developed based on the recent advancement of information and communication technology (ICT). The appropriate use of such media provides useful health information and other benefits both for nurses and for persons who are being cared for. Nurses distinguish professional use from personal use and recognize not only the benefits but also the risks of the use of such media. Nurses distribute and share information taking utmost precautions for the correctness of information, the protection of the privacy of nurses and persons who are being cared for.

6 If a risk or harm arises for persons who are being cared for, nurses protect them and ensure their safety.

Nurses always act to support people's health and happiness. Nurses are in the position of uncovering acts that may threaten people's lives and human rights, as well as inappropriate conduct. When nurses identify such conduct, they do not turn away from it, but act to protect people and ensure their safety. In this process, nurses share information with other professionals and take action based on careful consideration. In the provision of healthcare and welfare services, nurses take an approach to protect people's lives and human rights, paying attention to all possible harm, including the possibility of an inappropriate decision or action by any persons and the possibility of harm caused by nurses. Nurses raise questions when they identify an unethical practice or situation and act to ensure that adequate healthcare and welfare services will be provided.

7 Nurses accurately understand their responsibilities and abilities and are responsible for their nursing practice as individuals.

Nurses always accurately understand their responsibilities and abilities, and practice nursing accordingly. Nurses are held accountable for their nursing practice and are responsible for the decisions outcomes of that they undertake.

The practice of nursing is stipulated in the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses. Nurses observe the applicable laws and practice nursing within the scope of their responsibilities and abilities. When nursing beyond their abilities is required, nurses proactively seek support and guidance, or request the adjustment of assignments, to provide safe and high-quality nursing. When nurses delegate assignments to other nursing professionals, they accurately assess the abilities of their own and their colleagues to avoid causing a harm to the persons who are being cared for.

8 Nurses always endeavor to develop, maintain, and improve their abilities through continuous learning as part of their individual responsibilities.

Nurses must be highly educated and have a high level of expertise in order to keep up with the advancements of science and medicine, and to address people's changing health needs and diversified social values. To have a high level of expertise and provide quality nursing, nurses must, as part of their responsibilities and duties, endeavor to develop, maintain, and improve their abilities by proactively taking various learning opportunities after obtaining their license.

The opportunities for continuous learning include information from journals and publications, and continuing education programs at their facilities as well as e-learning and external learning opportunities such as participation in academic meetings and seminars. Nurses proactively, take adequate opportunities to improve their professional practice.

In addition to developing, maintaining, and improving their abilities, nurses are also responsible for fostering the next generation in order to guarantee the ongoing provision of high-quality nursing.

9 Nurses achieve better healthcare and welfare services in collaboration with other professionals.

In collaboration with other professionals, nurses shared value that emphasizes making all possible efforts for persons who receive nursing and medical care.

Nurses and related persons in healthcare and welfare services deepen their mutual understanding as the basis for collaboration with other professionals, maximize their respective abilities, and aim to provide healthcare and welfare services of higher quality.

To achieve better medical and nursing care and promote people's health, their participation in the process is indispensable. Nurses establish partnerships with persons who are being cared for,² promote their participation in medical and nursing care, and seek to jointly achieve healthcare and welfare services of higher quality with their collaboration in research, medical safety, and other aspects.

10 To provide nursing care of higher quality, nurses set a behavioral standard for practice and behave to act with the standards.

It is an essential requirement for professionals to set behavioral standards for their practice and behave in accordance with the standard as a matter of integrity. Such a behavioral standard stipulate criteria and responsibilities required in the professional practice and duty and supports the professional value of nurses.

Such a standard is established by the organization, and the individuals and organization endeavor to meet the standard, while leveraging the standard as a criterion for evaluation. The standard is revised as appropriate in response to changes in society and people's needs.

Nurses comply with standards and guidelines set by professional nursing organizations. Each facility endeavors to guarantee nursing of higher quality by formulating more specific and practical standards that consistent with the characteristics of the facility and nursing.

² Partnerships in healthcare and welfare services herein refer to relationships where nurses and persons who are being cared for cooperate with each other in equal positions in order to achieve better health and livelihood.

11 Through research and practice, nurses endeavor to create and develop professional knowledge and skills and contribute to the development of nursing science.

Nurses always apply scientific findings and principles to nursing practice and make all possible efforts to develop new professional knowledge and skills. The professional knowledge and skills that they develop are collected and contribute to the provision of higher quality of nursing in the future. In other words, through research and practice, nurses are responsible for contributing to the development of nursing science and to people's health and welfare by endeavoring to create and develop professional knowledge and skills and then to formulate nursing policies, as the core of nursing.

Nurses respect the intentions of people concerning participation in any kind of healthcare and welfare research, protect people's life, health, and privacy, respect their dignity and rights, and guarantee the provision of appropriate healthcare and welfare services.

12 To practice nursing of higher quality, nurses endeavor to improve their own well-being.³

For nurses to provide high quality nursing, it is indispensable to maintain their own well-being. The healthy and happy state of nurses enables the provision of better nursing care and leads to more favorable outcomes in the health and happiness of persons who are being cared for.

To improve their well-being, nurses endeavor to maintain their work-life balance and good mental health care.

Furthermore, the settings of nursing practice involve the risks of exposure to radiation, infection, harassment, violence, etc. Both individuals and organizations take measures to realize sound and safe working environments for all nurses.

³ The Constitution of the World Health Organization, which entered into force in 1948, states, "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Referring to this principle, the JNA Code of Ethics interprets and uses the term "well-being" as a favorable physical, mental, and social state.

13 Nurses always endeavor to maintain integrity and enhance social trust of all nurses.

Nursing cannot exist without the trust of people who need nursing care. Nurses always recognize the social mission and responsibility of their profession, have pride in their profession, and maintain high standards of integrity.

Trust in nursing not only derives from the professional knowledge and skills of nurses but also depends on their behavior being sincere, polite, decent, clean, and modest. Because social trust is indispensable, nurses must enhance their cultural knowledge in fields other than their specialty and acquire adequate social commonsense.

Nurses do not take advantage of their positions to conduct activities that may compromise trust in nursing or conduct illegal activities.

14 To protect people's lives and health, nurses share responsibilities with society based on the idea of social justice concerning various issues.

From the standpoint of protecting and respecting people's lives, dignity, and rights, nurses share responsibilities with society based on social justice from a global perspective, concerning issues such as, all kinds of discrimination, poverty, various disparities, climate change, abuse, human trafficking, conflicts, violence, and other issues that severely affect lives and health. Nurses always endeavor to update their knowledge concerning such issues that arise in Japan and across the world, improve their awareness, and distribute information to society concerning such issues. Nurses also proactively participate in situations with potential issues and take appropriate measures as nursing professionals in collaboration with other professionals and related organizations.

Nurses also fulfill their responsibility to prevent environmental destruction caused by healthcare and welfare activities, and take proactive measures to maintain the environment for protecting and promoting people's health, including the acquisition of clean air, pure water, safe food, and noise control measures.

In this way, nurses aspire to achieve the achievement of a peaceful and inclusive society where the safety and health of people's lives are protected.

15 Nurses belong to professional organizations, participate in activities to enhance the quality of nursing, and contribute to the achievement of a better society.

To contribute to social welfare by providing high-quality nursing care at all times, nurses have a mission to improve their abilities as professionals. To ensure that policies and systems regarding healthcare, welfare, and nursing congruent social changes and people's needs, nurses proactively participate in the improvement of systems, policy-making, and the creation of new social resources.

Nurses belong to professional nursing organizations and participate in activities to enhance the quality of nursing, including the above, thereby contributing to the achievement of a better society.

16 In collaboration with various disaster relief providers, nurses make all possible efforts to protect the lives, health, and livelihood of all people affected by disasters.

Disasters cause the loss of people's lives, health, and livelihood, and seriously afflict individuals, local communities, countries, and the global environment. Nurses improve disaster awareness as professionals to protect people's lives, health, and livelihood, and provide healthcare and welfare services based on their professional knowledge and skills.

To protect people's lives, health, and livelihood from disasters, nurses participate in policy-making at normal times in order to reduce disaster risks. During times of disaster, nurses provide support that appropriate for the different phases from first response to recovery and reconstruction, in accordance with the type, scale, and damage of the disaster. During times of disaster, nurses act with limited resources and under conditions that differ from those in normal times. Nurses secure their own safety and provide healthcare and welfare services required by the continuously changing situations and needs.

In collaboration with various disaster relief providers, nurses endeavor to maximize their respective functions and abilities to their full extend.

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公益社団法人 **日本看護協会**