

cure the referral of a patient or for prescribing or referring a patient to any source.

*A physician shall respect the rights of patients, of colleagues, and of other health professionals, and shall safeguard patient confidences.*

*A physician shall act only in the patient's interest when providing medical care which might have the effect of weakening the physical and mental condition of the patient.*

*A physician shall use great caution in divulging discoveries or new techniques or treatment through nonprofessional channels.*

*A physician shall certify only that which he has personally verified.*

### **Duties of Physicians to the Sick**

*A physician shall always bear in mind the obligation of preserving human life.*

*A physician shall owe his patients complete loyalty and all the resources of his science. Whenever an examination or treatment is beyond the physician's capacity, he should summon another physician who has the necessary ability.*

*A physician shall preserve absolute confidentiality on all he knows about his patient, even after the patient has died.*

*A physician shall give emergency care as a humanitarian duty unless he is assured that others are willing and able to give such care.*

### **Duties of Physicians to Each Other**

*A physician shall behave towards his colleagues as he would have them behave towards him.*

*A physician shall not entice patients from his colleagues.*

*A physician shall observe the principles of the "Declaration of Geneva" approved by the World Medical Association.*

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## **CODE FOR NURSES: ETHICAL CONCEPTS APPLIED TO NURSING**

*Adopted by the International Council of Nurses in May 1973*

The fundamental responsibility of the nurse is fourfold: to promote health, to prevent illness, to restore health, and to alleviate suffering.

The need for nursing is universal. Inherent in nursing is respect for life, dignity, and the rights of man. It is unrestricted by considerations of nationality, race, creed, color, age, sex, politics, or social status.

Nurses render health services to the individual, the family, and the community and coordinate their services with those of related groups.

## **Nurses and People**

The nurse's primary responsibility is to those people who require nursing care.

The nurse, in providing care, promotes an environment in which the values, customs, and spiritual beliefs of the individual are respected.

The nurse holds in confidence personal information and uses judgment in sharing this information.

## **Nurses and Practice**

The nurse carries personal responsibility for nursing practice and for maintaining competence by continual learning.

The nurse maintains the highest standards of nursing care possible within the reality of a specific situation.

The nurse uses judgment in relation to individual competence when accepting and delegating responsibilities.

The nurse when acting in a professional capacity should at all times maintain standards of personal conduct which reflect credit upon the profession.

## **Nurses and Society**

The nurse shares with other citizens the responsibility for initiating and supporting actions to meet the health and social needs of the public.

## **Nurses and Coworkers**

The nurse sustains a cooperative relationship with coworkers in nursing and other fields.

The nurse takes appropriate action to safeguard the individual when his care is endangered by a coworker or any other person.

## **Nurses and the Profession**

The nurse plays the major role in determining and implementing desirable standards of nursing practice and nursing education.

The nurse is active in developing a core of professional knowledge.

The nurse, acting through the professional organization, participates in establishing and maintaining equitable social and economic working conditions in nursing.

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