



Code of Professional Conduct



United Kingdom Central Council
for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
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June 1992

**Code of
Professional Conduct
for the Nurse, Midwife
and Health Visitor**

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Each registered nurse, midwife and health visitor shall act, at all times, in such a manner as to:

- . safeguard and promote the interests of individual patients and clients;
- . serve the interests of society;
- . justify public trust and confidence and
- . uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the professions.

As a registered nurse, midwife or health visitor, you are personally accountable for your practice and, in the exercise of your professional accountability, must:

- 1 act always in such a manner as to promote and safeguard the interests and well-being of patients and clients;
- 2 ensure that no action or omission on your part, or within your sphere of responsibility, is detrimental to the interests, condition or safety of patients and clients;
- 3 maintain and improve your professional knowledge and competence;
- 4 acknowledge any limitations in your knowledge and competence and decline any duties or responsibilities unless able to perform them in a safe and skilled manner;
- 5 work in an open and co-operative manner with patients, clients and their families, foster their independence and recognise and respect their involvement in the planning and delivery of care;
- 6 work in a collaborative and co-operative manner with health care professionals and others involved in providing care, and recognise and respect their particular contributions within the care team;
- 7 recognise and respect the uniqueness and dignity of each patient and client, and respond to their need for care, irrespective of their ethnic origin, religious beliefs, personal attributes, the nature of their health problems or any other factor;
- 8 report to an appropriate person or authority, at the earliest possible time, any conscientious objection which may be relevant to your professional practice;
- 9 avoid any abuse of your privileged relationship with patients and clients and of the privileged access allowed to their person, property, residence or workplace;
- 10 protect all confidential information concerning patients and clients obtained in the course of professional practice and make disclosures only with consent, where required by the order of a court or where you can justify disclosure in the wider public interest;
- 11 report to an appropriate person or authority, having regard to the physical, psychological and social effects on patients and clients, any circumstances in the environment of care which could jeopardise standards of practice;
- 12 report to an appropriate person or authority any circumstances in which safe and appropriate care for patients and clients cannot be provided;
- 13 report to an appropriate person or authority where it appears that the health or safety of colleagues is at risk, as such circumstances may compromise standards of practice and care;
- 14 assist professional colleagues, in the context of your own knowledge, experience and sphere of responsibility, to develop their professional competence

and assist others in the care team, including informal carers, to contribute safely and to a degree appropriate to their roles;

- 15 refuse any gift, favour or hospitality from patients or clients currently in your care which might be interpreted as seeking to exert influence to obtain preferential consideration and
- 16 ensure that your registration status is not used in the promotion of commercial products or services, declare any financial or other interests in relevant organisations providing such goods or services and ensure that your professional judgement is not influenced by any commercial considerations.

**Notice to all Registered Nurses,
Midwives and Health Visitors**

This Code of Professional Conduct for the Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor is issued to all registered nurses, midwives and health visitors by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. The Council is the regulatory body responsible for the standards of these professions and it requires members of the professions to practise and conduct themselves within the standards and framework provided by the Code.

The Council's Code is kept under review and any recommendations for change and improvement would be welcomed and should be addressed to the:

Chief Executive/Registrar
United Kingdom Central Council
for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
23 Portland Place
London
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