

United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

Code of Professional Conduct

for Nurses
Midwives
and Health
Visitors
(based on
ethical
concepts)

UKCC

**United Kingdom
Central Council
for Nursing,
Midwifery and
Health Visiting**
23 Portland Place
London W1N 3AF
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1st Edition

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**Code of
Professional Conduct
for Nurses, Midwives
and Health Visitors
(based on ethical concepts)**

(In the text that follows the use of the female gender
equally implies the male.)

ARCHIVED PUBLICATION

The registered nurse, midwife or health visitor shall, at all times, act in such manner as to justify public trust and confidence, to uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the profession, to serve the public interest and the interests of patients/clients.

In fulfilment of professional responsibility and in the exercise of professional accountability the nurse, midwife or health visitor shall:

- 1 Comply with the law of any country, state, province or territory in which she works, and have due regard to custom and practice.
- 2 Be accountable for her practice and take every reasonable opportunity to sustain and improve her knowledge and professional competence.
- 3 Have regard to the customs, values and spiritual beliefs of patients/clients.
- 4 Hold in confidence any information obtained through professional attendance on a patient/client. Such information must not be divulged unless judged necessary to discharge her professional responsibilities to the patient /client; normally the consent of the patient/client should be obtained. Exceptionally the professional practitioner may be required by legal process to divulge information held: she should seek advice before responding.
- 5 Avoid any abuse of the privileged relationship with patients/clients or the privileged access to their property, residence or workplace.
- 6 At all times act in such a way as to promote and safeguard the well being and interests of patients/clients for whose care she is professionally accountable and ensure that by no action or omission on her part their condition or safety is placed at risk.
- 7 Have regard to the environment of care (physical, psychological and social) and to available resources, and make known to the appropriate authority if these endanger safe standards of practice.
- 8 Accept a responsibility relevant to her professional experience for assisting her peers and subordinates to develop professional competence.

2

- 9 Have due regard to the workload of and the pressures on professional colleagues and subordinates and take appropriate action if these are seen to be such as to endanger safe standards of practice.
- 10 Make known to the appropriate authority any conscientious objection she holds which may be relevant to her professional practice.
- 11 Refuse to accept any gift, favour or hospitality which might be interpreted as seeking to exert undue influence to obtain preferential treatment.
- 12 Avoid advertising or signing an advertisement using her professional qualification(s) to encourage the sale of commercial products, or services. Any nurse, midwife or health visitor who wishes to use her professional qualifications to advertise her professional services or to take part in any form of commercial advertising should seek advice at the UKCC offices.

Notes to be read in association with the preceding Code

- 1 It is expected that the nurse, midwife or health visitor will perform her professional duties in accordance with any nationally approved guidelines or codes of practice, and (provided they do not conflict) in accordance with approved local policies.
- 2 Where the guidelines, codes or policies are found to be such as to impede the safe and effective performance of those duties, proposals for change should be initiated through the appropriate professional channels.
- 3 Where, from a professional stance, a law is considered bad or inappropriate it should be challenged through the due processes of democracy. Where a practice is considered unsound it should be challenged through the appropriate professional channels. Such actions would be accepted as proper expressions of professional concern and responsibility.

3

Notice to all Registered Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors

This Code of Professional Conduct is issued by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

It is issued for the guidance and advice of all registered nurses, midwives and health visitors.

The Code will be reviewed by the Council at least once in each calendar year.

The Council requires that members of the profession recognise it as their responsibility (as well as the Council's) to re-appraise continuously the relevance of the Code to the social and professional context in which nurses, midwives and health visitors must practise.

The Council will welcome suggestions and comments for consideration in its periodic review of the Code of Professional Conduct. Such suggestions and comments should be sent to:

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