

ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses serves as a *succinct statement of ethical obligations and duties of every individual who enters the profession*. The Code of Ethics consists of nine, which provide the framework for understanding how to incorporate ethical analysis and decision making into practice. The first three provisions describe the most fundamental values and commitments of the nurse, the next three address boundaries of duty and loyalty, and the last three address aspects of duties beyond individual patient encounters. The provisions of the ANA Code are incorporated into nursing practice at MGH and are reflected within the ethics resources available to staff in support of their practice (see paper entitled Ethics Standards and Resources).

The value statement for Patient Care Services provides the framework for nurses to use ethical analysis and decision-making in practice.

“Supporting our vision is a clearly-articulated set of values which pervade our decision-making process and find daily expression in our policies, practices and norms of behavior. Our values combined with our vision provide both an affirmation of work, which already exists and a foundation on which to bring about ideas not yet realized. Each of us makes decisions every day by personal and institutional values. The values we have chosen to be of primary importance to us as we move forward are: leadership, entrepreneurial teamwork, caring, innovation, and scientific practice.

- **The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of the health problems.**
- **The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group or community.**
- **The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.**
- **The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse’s obligation to provide optimum patient care.**
- **The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.**
- **The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving the health care environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession of individual and collective actions.**
- **The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration and the knowledge development.**
- **The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national and international efforts to meet health needs.**
- **The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.**