

NURSING COUNCIL OF MAURITIUS

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES (Draft Copy Feb 2010)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This code of practice for Nurses and Midwives has been developed and established by the Nursing Council of Mauritius pursuant to section 12(f) of the Nursing Council Act 2003.
- 1.2 The code of practice is a set of expected national standard of nursing conduct, performances and ethics for registered nurse in Mauritius.
- 1.3 The code is not intended to give detailed professional advice on specific issues and areas of practice; rather it identifies the minimum requirement for conduct in the profession.
- 1.4 A breach of the code may constitute professional misconduct or unprofessional conduct.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the code of practice for nurses in Mauritius is to;

- 2.1 Set an expected national standard of conduct for the Nursing profession.
- 2.2 Inform the community about the acceptable standard for professional conduct of nurses in Mauritius.
- 2.3 Provide consumer, regulatory bodies, employing and professional bodies with the basis for decisions regarding standards for professional conduct of nurses.
- 2.4 Serve as a guide for self-evaluation and self-reflection for nursing professionals.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The professional code of practice for nurses and midwives applies to all areas of Nursing and Midwifery.

3.2 Nurses forming part of the Civil Service has, as well to abide to the Code of ethics for Public Officers as in force.

4. Safe and competent practice

- The Nurse has an obligation to practice in a safe and competent manner that is not compromise by personal health limitations
- The Nurse/Midwife should report to the appropriate authority, for remedial action, any existing condition or situation that could jeopardize the standard of practice
- The Nurse/Midwife has an obligation to maintain competence by ever updating his/her knowledge, skills and abilities in the theory and practice of nursing and midwifery.
- The Nurse/Midwife should know the limits of his/her professional competence and practice within that level of competence as ascribed in her/his training and if there is need advise the appropriate authorities of their scope of practice including any limitations.
- The nurse must be aware that undertaking activities that are not within their scope of practice may compromise the safety of an individual. In such situation where she feel having doubt on his competence to give care to a service user should seek guidance from a senior nurse or carry out the care under the supervision of a senior nurse or a registered medical practitioner.
- The nurse should be ever ready to share his knowledge and experience to his colleagues or other paramedical staff and involve in clinical teaching of juniors nurses, nursing and medical students, however, he/she should act within the scope of his competence.

5. Quality Care

- The Nurse/Midwife should strive to provide the highest possible quality of care in any given situation.

6. Respect for the Individual

- In providing nursing and midwifery care the Nurse/Midwife should have respect for the person's individual needs, values, culture and belief of an individual and any significant others. His right for information and informed consent or refusal for any treatment should be maintained.
- In making professional judgement in relation to individual interest and right, a nurse must practice in accordance with laws relevant to the nurse's area of practice and not contravene any law or breach the human right of an individual.

7. Confidentiality

- The Nurse and Midwife should hold in confidence any information about the patient that he/she obtains in the exercise of his/her functions and ensure that such information is not disclosed without the person's or the treating health Institution consent unless it is for professional and legal purposes.
- In the absence of consent, the nurse uses professional judgement regarding the necessity to disclose particular details, giving due consideration to the interest, wellbeing, health and safety of the individual.

8. Equity and Fairness

- The Nurse/Midwife should uphold the principles of equity and fairness towards all people in whatever state the individual is, in the provision of care and ensure that the patients have access to health services, responsive to their needs within the resources available.

9. Professional Ethic

- The Nurse/Midwife should maintain professional relationship with the patients and cooperate with others in the team
- The Nurse/Midwife should not use his/her profession or status for promoting and marketing commercial products and services.
- The action of the nurse in their personal life may have an adverse impact on her reputation and on the profession, and may have adverse therapeutic outcome. The

conduct of a nurse must at all time maintain and build public trust and confidence that upholds the reputation of the profession.

10. Fidelity

- The Nurse/Midwife has an obligation to be faithful to the responsibilities he or she undertakes.
- A nurse must promote and preserve the trust that is inherent in the privilege relationship between a nurse and an individual and respect both the person and property of the individual.

11. Identification

- The Nurse/Midwife should wear the appropriate uniform and display conspicuously the applicable title and name to identify him/her in any healthcare settings.

12. Records keeping

- The Nurse /Midwife should keep appropriate documentation in the exercise of his/her functions and ensure that such records are accurate and factual.

13. Accountability

- The Nurse/Midwife is personally and professionally responsible and accountable for any action or omission in the exercise of his/her duty.