What the ANA Code of Ethics & the Nurse Practice Act Means to Nursing At Baystate
Purpose of this lesson

- Nurses need resources to help them navigate the ethical dilemmas that arise in an increasingly complex world of health care.
- The Code of Ethics helps nurses to understand their ethical standards and obligations. “It provides guidance to nurses about their primary responsibility to the safety and well-being of their patients”. Robichaux (2016)
The Code of Ethics serve the following purposes:

• It is a succinct statement of ethical obligations and duties of every nurse who enters the profession
• It is the profession’s non-negotiable ethical standard
• It is an expression of nursing’s own understanding of its commitment to society
9 Provisions

The Code of Ethics consists of nine provisions which provide the framework for understanding how to incorporate ethical analysis & decision making into practice.
What the Provisions Cover

- The first 3 provisions describe the most fundamental values & commitments of the nurse
- The next 3 provisions addresses boundaries of duty & loyalty
- The last 3 provisions address aspects of duties beyond individual patient encounters.

The provisions of the ANA Code are incorporated into nursing practice at Baystate
Provision 1

The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

- Nurses at Baystate Medical Center serve a wide socioeconomic population. Services are provided regardless of a patient's social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.
- Cultural diversity awareness is evident and provisions are made to allow patients' to practice their religious, cultural and ethnic beliefs while here at Baystate.
Provision 1

- Respect for human dignity
- Relationships with patients
- The nature of health
- The right to self-determination
- Relationship with colleagues & others
Provision 2

The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community or population.

- The patient care delivery model at Baystate is Patient and Family Centered Care.
- The patient and family are at the center of all planning for care.
Provision 2

- Primacy of patient’s interests
- Conflict of interest for nurses
- Collaboration
- Professional boundaries
The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

• Baystate nurses protect the rights of every patient to privacy and confidentiality. They respect the rights of patients to consent to treatment and procedures and participation in research.
Provision 3

- Privacy
- Confidentiality
- Protection of human participants in research
- Standards & review mechanisms
- Action on questionable practice
- Addressing impaired practice
- Professional responsibility in promoting a culture of safety
Provision 4

The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

- The Registered nurse at Baystate Medical Center delegates tasks based upon CMR 3.05 of the Board of Registration in Nursing. In addition, the nurse individually assesses each patient, the task and the appropriateness of delegation of such task based upon the individual patient need at the time of provision of care.
Provision 4

Acceptance of accountability & responsibility
Accountability for nursing judgment & action
Responsibility for nursing judgment & action
Delegation of nursing activities
The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

- Baystate nurses are committed to lifelong learning as evidenced by their participation in continuing education, networking, self study, professional reading, certification and pursuing advanced degrees.
Provision 5

- Moral self-respect
- Professional growth & maintenance of competence
- Wholeness of character
- Presentation of integrity
Provision 6

The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

“Nurses in all roles must create a culture of excellence and maintain practice environments that support nurses and others in the fulfillment of their ethical obligations.”

Baystate nurses participate on various peer review quality improvement and performance improvement committees.
Provision 6

Influence of the environment on moral virtues & values

Influence of the environment on ethical obligations
Provision 7

The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

- Many clinical nurses attend the Nursing Inquiry and Innovations Council.
- Nurses are encouraged to participate in clinical inquiry through the Art of Questioning and Art of Answering Campaigns.
- As of 2014, 45% of eligible clinical nurses are certified in their specialty.
- Many staff have engaged in public speaking activities at national conferences and have published in national journals.
- BMC ICU and HVCC have also received the Beacon Award.
- Many of our nurses sit as chairs of national organizations that promote specialty areas in nursing.
Provision 7

Advancing the profession through active involvement in nursing & healthcare policy

Advancing the profession by developing, maintaining & implementing professional standards in clinical, administrative & educations practice

Contributing through nursing and health policy development
Provision 8

The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

Many of BMC’s nurses participate in local and national public health and safety education.
Provision 8

- Health is a universal right
- Collaboration for health, human rights, and health diplomacy
- Obligation to advance health and human rights and reduce disparities
- Collaboration for human rights in complex, extreme or extraordinary practice settings
Provision 9

The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.
Provision 9

Articulation and assertion of values

Integrity of the profession

Integrating social justice

Social justice in nursing and health policy
Introduction to the Massachusetts Regulation of Nursing Practice by the Board of Registration in Nursing (BORN)

The Nurse Practice Act
“...Each individual licensed to practice nursing in the commonwealth shall be directly accountable for the safety of nursing care he delivers.”

M.G.L. Chapter 112, Section 80B
Regulations

What are they?
- Rules enacted through state legislative action
- Rules of specific authority
- Delegated authority to enforce the nurse practice act
- Expertise of a group to implement a statute

Why do we have them?
- Reflective of the complexity of modern life
- The public’s measure of evaluation of the provider’s level of competency
- Develops specific standards of public protection
- Detailed requirements of safety
- DUTY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC
BORN

Mission

To lead in the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth through the fair and consistent application of the statutes and regulations governing nursing practice and nursing education.
**Goals**

- Ensure that persons licensed as nurses are **qualified** to provide the citizens of the Commonwealth with **safe & effective** nursing care
- Lead in state government & public arenas in the **promotion** of **safe & effective** nursing practice
The Nurse Practice Act

- Massachusetts General law (M.G.L.) Chapter 13, 13, 14/14A, 15 and 15D and Chapter 112, sections 74 through 81C authorize the Board of Registration in Nursing to regulate nursing practice and education.

- 17 appointed members – 14 nurses, 2 public members, 1 physician, and 1 pharmacist. Nurse members are representatives from education (all levels of RN & LPN), direct care (RN & LPN), administration, and advanced nursing practice
Functions of the Board

- makes, adopts, amends, repeals, and enforces regulations it deems necessary for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare
- issues advisory rulings and opinions which guide nursing practice and education
- approves and monitors nursing education programs which lead to initial licensure
- issues nursing licenses to qualified individuals
- authorizes qualified nurses to practice in advanced roles
- verifies the licensure status of nurses
- investigates and takes action on complaints concerning the performance and conduct of licensed nurses
- audits the continued competency of nurses
- prepares and publishes materials it deems integral to the delivery of safe, effective nursing care, including an annual notification to all licensees of changes in laws and regulations regarding nursing education, licensure and practice
- participates as an active member in the National Council of State Boards of Nursing
- provides consultation and conducts conferences, forums, studies and research on nursing practice, nursing education and related matters
Links

• ANA for Code of Ethics:
  http://www.nursingworld.org/
• Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing:
  http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/dhpl/nursing/about/
References

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