

**[PRC BOARD OF NURSING BOARD RESOLUTION
NO. 220, SERIES 2004, July 14, 2004]**

**PROMULGATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR REGISTERED
NURSES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing has the power to promulgate a Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses in coordination and consultation with the accredited professional organization (Sec. 9, (g), Art. III of R.A. No. 9173, known as the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002);

WHEREAS, in the formulation of the Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses, the Code of Good Governance for the Professions in the Philippines was utilized as the principal basis therefor: all the principles under the said Code were adopted and integrated into the Code of Ethics as they apply to the nursing profession;

WHEREAS, the promulgation of the said Code as a set of guidelines, regulations or measures shall be subject to approval by the Commission (Sec. 9, Art. II of R.A. No. 9173); and

WHEREAS, the Board, after consultation on October 23, 2003 at Iloilo City with the accredited professional organization of registered nurses, the Philippine Nurses Association , Inc. (PNA), and other affiliate organizations of Registered Nurses, decided to adopt a new Code of Ethics under the afore-mentioned new Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby resolved, as it now resolves, to promulgate the hereunder Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses:

**ARTICLE I
Preamble**

SECTION 1. Health is a fundamental right of every individual. The Filipino registered nurse, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the primary responsibility to preserve health at all cost. This responsibility encompasses promotion of health, prevention of illness, alleviation of suffering, and restoration of health. However, when the foregoing are not possible, assistance towards a peaceful death shall be his/her obligation.

SECTION 2. To assume this responsibility, registered nurses have to gain knowledge and understanding of man's cultural, social, spiritual, physiological, psychological, and ecological aspects of illness, utilizing the therapeutic process. Cultural diversity and political and socio-economic status are inherent factors to effective nursing care.

SECTION 3. The desire for the respect and confidence of clientele, colleagues, co-

workers, and the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

ARTICLE II Registered Nurses and People

SECTION 4. Ethical Principles

1. Values, customs, and spiritual beliefs held by individuals shall be respected.
2. Individual freedom to make rational and unconstrained decisions shall be respected.
3. Personal information acquired in the process of giving nursing care shall be held in strict confidence.

SECTION 5. Guidelines to be observed:

REGISTERED Nurses must

- a. Consider the individuality and totality of patients when they administer care.
- b. Respect the spiritual beliefs and practices of patients regarding diet and treatment.
- c. Uphold the rights of individuals.
- d. Take into consideration the culture and values of patients in providing nursing care. However, in the event of conflicts, their welfare and safety must take precedence.

ARTICLE III Registered Nurses and Practice

SECTION 6. Ethical Principles

1. Human life is inviolable
2. Quality and excellence in the care of the patients are the goals of nursing practice.
3. Accurate documentation of actions and outcomes of delivered care is the hallmark of nursing accountability.

SECTION 7. Guidelines to be observed:

REGISTERED Nurses must

- a. Know the definition and scope of nursing practice which are in the provisions of R.A. No. 9173, known as the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002" and Board Res. No. 425, Series of 2003, the "Rules and

Regulations Implementing the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002", (the IRR).

- b. Be aware of their duties and responsibilities in the practice of their profession as defined in the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002" and the IRR.
- c. Acquire and develop the necessary competence in knowledge, skills, and attitudes to effectively render appropriate nursing services through varied learning situations.
- d. If they are administrators, be responsible in providing favorable environment for the growth and developments of Registered Nurses in their charge.
- e. Be cognizant that professional programs for specialty certification by the BON are accredited through the Nursing Specialty Certification Council (NSCC).
- f. See to it that quality nursing care and practice meet the optimum standard of safe nursing practice.
- g. Insure that modification of practice shall consider the principles of safe nursing practice.
- h. If in position of authority in a work environment, be normally and legally responsible for devising a system of minimizing occurrences of ineffective and unlawful nursing practice.
- i. Ensure that patients' records shall be available only if they are to be issued to those who are professionally and directly involved in their care and when they are required by law.

SECTION 8. Ethical Principle

4. Registered Nurses are the advocates of the patients: they shall take appropriate steps to safeguard their rights and privileges.

Guidelines to be observed:

REGISTERED Nurses must

- a. Respect the "Patients' Bill of Rights" in the delivery of nursing care.
- b. Provide the patients or their families with all pertinent information except those which may be deemed harmful to their well-being.
- c. Uphold the patients' rights when conflict arises regarding management of their care.