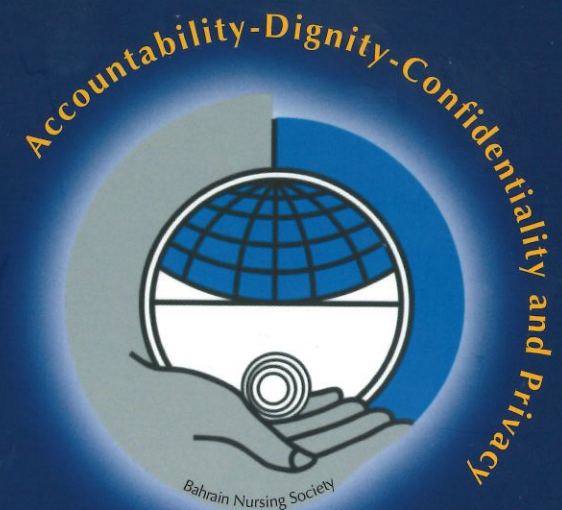




Kingdom of Bahrain
Ministry of Health

Bahrain National Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing



An interpretation of the GCC Code of
Professional Conduct for Nursing

Reflection of the Code through the BNS Logo

Accountability and the protection of the person's dignity, confidentiality and his right for privacy are the basic values which nurses in Bahrain will be guided by while caring for their patients and clients.

Human life is precious, therefore, like the pearl it needs to be valued and protected with optimum care by nurses who will be in partnership with the community in achieving this goal.

Nurses in Bahrain will unite with other Nurses in the world in the promotion of health initiatives aimed at the improvement of healthcare delivery.

Developed by
Office of Licensure and Registration
in collaboration with
Bahrain Nursing Society
Kingdom of Bahrain
July 2002

Contents

● Introduction	1
● Users of the Code	2
● The Purpose of the Code	3
● Accountability	5
● Scenario I	17
● Dignity	19
● Scenario II	26
● Confidentiality and Privacy	27
● Scenario III	34
● Summary of value Statements	35-37
● References	39
● Acknowledgements	41-42

Introduction

In May 2001, the Executive Board of the Health Ministers Council for the GCC states published the first edition of the Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing which was developed by the GCC Nursing Technical Committee. This code is an expanded version based on the GCC Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing. Also it is based on codes developed by International Nursing Organizations.

In the following sections the values are explained in simple and clear terms; and for each value, specific behavioral directives are drawn. The directives serve mainly as general expectations and guidance. To identify the best course of actions, nurses will further need to use their judgment and share with professional colleagues the specific ethical situation at hand. To further enhance understanding of the values, 'real' life scenarios are drawn. These scenarios provide situations in which nurses face ethical dilemmas, where one value may conflict with another, hence presenting "real" grounds for thought.

In this document the term "client" refers to all those who receive nursing care and services. Client is therefore synonymous with patient, family, public and the community.

Also in this document the term "Nurse" refers to all levels of nursing staff that includes policy maker, top, middle and first level managers, nurse educators, and nurse clinicians at all levels and specialties.

The code has identified accountability, dignity, confidentiality and privacy as generally encompassing and relevant values to provide guidance for decision-making concerning ethical matters. The values defined in the document are primary in nature; and other values, such as responsibility and truthfulness, are further drawn and clearly stated.

Perceived ethical, moral and value-laden situations can be highly complex and difficult to understand by the people involved in ethical dilemmas. It is, therefore, imperative to provide nurses with a code of professional conduct which will guide their ethical decision-making and behavior. This code aims to serve as a "Framework for Professional Conduct" for **the following users:**

- **For those entering the profession**, this code highlights the basic moral obligations of Nursing and may serve as a source of guidance for professional conduct.
- **For those within the profession**, the code serves as a standard for self-evaluation and peer review.
- **For those outside the profession (the public)**, this code may serve to set up expectations from clients and the community at large for the professional conduct of nurses.

The purpose of the code:

1. To provide guidance for conduct consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession in order to deliver high quality nursing care.
2. To provide means for the exercise of professional self regulation.
3. To inform both the nurse and society of the professions' expectations and requirements in ethical matters.
4. To provide a framework within which nurses can make ethical decisions and discharge their responsibilities to the public, to health team members and to the profession.

Accountability

Professional accountability refers to being answerable to someone for something one has done, and is fundamentally concerned with weighing up the interests of clients, in both routine and complex situations, using professional knowledge, judgment and skills which will enable nurses to account for the decision made. Nurses are also accountable for their contribution to the development of the nursing profession and to serving the interests of society.

Value Statement

1.1. The Nurse ensures compliance with the principles and responsibilities in this code of professional conduct.

Explanatory Statement

This code is a guide for registered nurses to care in a manner that reflects professional conduct, protects clients, and honors the values of nurses and nursing profession. Nurses are accountable for complying with the elements contained in this code and with the standards for nursing services, education, and with the laws pertaining to the regulation of nursing practice in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Upon entering the profession requests the code of conduct document and reads and understands the main elements and directives of the code.
- Reads and understands the bylaws and professional standards for Nursing Practice and Education.
- Complies with and utilizes the document as a guideline for decision-making and problem-solving.
- When faced with ethical dilemmas, reports to his/her manager and colleagues and shares concerns with them.

Value Statement

1.2. The Nurse is accountable for the promotion of national health care initiatives and services.

Explanatory statement

The provision of high quality health services to the citizens of Bahrain requires collaborative planning at the national, regional and international level. Nursing services are an integral part of the health service. Hence, they have a professional obligation towards the promotion and maintenance of health, the prevention of disease and caring for the sick.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Recognizes the national health needs and trends and understands health problems that lead to morbidity and mortality in Bahrain.
- Contributes towards the continuous development of national health initiatives.
- Actively participates in planning and decision-making at all levels to ensure fair and just distribution of health care services.
- Adopts a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team approach in the promotion of health.
- Reports to the appropriate authority any aspect in the environment which may have negative impact on the community's health.

Value Statement

1.3. The Nurse maintains safe and high standards of professional conduct in his/her area of practice.

Explanatory Statement

As an advocate for client care, the nurse must be alert to, and take appropriate preventive as well as corrective measures regarding any instances of incompetent, unethical or illegal practice by any member of the health care team that places the client's rights and best interests in jeopardy. It is incumbent upon nurses to be aware of the employing institution's policies and procedures, nurses' standards of practice, the code of practice and laws governing nursing and health care practice. It is also incumbent upon institutions/employers to ensure that policies, procedures and standards are in place and accessible to the nursing staff.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Identifies his/her own values towards the elements and standards of professional conduct.
- Conducts him/herself in a manner which promotes safe client care and maintains optimal standards of nursing practice.
- Keeps vigilant observation to identify any suspected unethical conduct of nurses and/or other health team members.
- Intervenes tactfully and professionally and notes down the unethical conduct.
- Reports to the appropriate authority, any suspected wrongdoing, unethical conduct, incompetent or unsafe practice.

Value Statement

1.4. The Nurse conducts him/herself in an honest and truthful manner that reflects credit on the profession and upholds its integrity.

Explanatory statement

Nurses are accountable for the status and reputation of nursing. Being members of the profession, nurses earn the respect, confidence, and trust of the public by conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the ethical values of this code.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Conducts him/herself in an honest, truthful manner at all times.
- Should never be involved in the promotion of commercial products or services.
- Refuses to accept gifts and favors in return for nursing services.
- Upholds the reputation of nursing and reports any misconducts.

Value Statement

1.5. The Nurse acts always in such a manner as to promote and safeguard the interests and well-being of patients and clients.

Explanatory Statement

The nurse has a legal and professional responsibility to provide quality, competent care in keeping with recognized standards, to the best of his/her ability, and will be held accountable for the provision of this care. The nurse will promote client well-being and not perform, by either act or omission, in a manner that will be detrimental to the client's well-being.

The nurse is responsible for his/her actions, and it is no excuse to say he/she was acting on someone else's orders.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Always puts the needs and demands of clients first.
- Provides knowledgeable, high quality, client and family-centered nursing care.
- Promotes the health and well-being of the client in the immediate work environment and elsewhere.

Value Statement

1.6. The nurse is accountable for providing quality, cost-effective primary, secondary and tertiary nursing care.

Explanatory statement

The nurse is concerned with the health and well-being of human beings. To this end, the nurse will provide care directed towards health promotion and disease prevention as well as treatment intervention, and rehabilitative and palliative care.

The nurse will respect and value the knowledge and skills of the health care team, and actively seek to support and collaborate with others so that maximum benefit to clients can be realized. At all times the nurse will strive to provide quality care in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Ensures the client's access to information relating to healthy living, disease prevention, treatment intervention, and rehabilitative and palliative care.
- Takes every effort to ensure that the client can understand the information being imparted.
- Employs cost-effective and efficient means of delivering quality nursing services.
- Eliminates wastage at all times.

Value Statement

1.7. The Nurse ensures delegation of aspects of client's care to competent healthcare team member(s).

Explanatory Statement

Nurses at all levels are accountable for the delegation of nursing care activities to fellow professionals, nursing students, and other support health workers.

Nurses determine the scope of their practices in the light of their educational preparation, knowledge, competency and experience. They are accountable for their own actions, even when acting on another's orders.

Delegating any nursing activity to nurses who are inadequately prepared, as many lack the necessary competencies, is inconsistent with the principles of the code; and nurses will be held accountable for the decision of delegating nursing activities to unqualified health workers.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Assesses his/her own and other nurses' level of knowledge and skills.
- Based on that, accepts or refrains from responsibilities and nursing activities.
- Never delegates nursing activities to unqualified support health workers.
- Accepts responsibility for any wrongdoing and reports the same immediately.

Value Statement

1.8. The Nurse managers establish and maintain high standards of environmental conditions and equitable social and economic welfare of employment.

Explanatory statement

Nurses advocate practice environments that have adequate organizational human support, and the allocation of resources for safe and competent nursing care.

Reasonable assurances regarding employment conditions including a cadre must be provided to all nurses. Nurses strive to the best of their ability to improve practice environments and to safeguard the health and safety of clients, nurses, and other health workers.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Ensures the provision of a conducive working environment.
- Allows for professional autonomy and self-regulation.
- Reads carefully the terms and conditions before signing the employment documents.
- Eliminates wastage at all times.
- Reports to an appropriate authority or the national nursing association any undesirable conditions of employment.
- Maintains and improves the practice environment and safeguards the health and safety of colleagues and clients at all times.
- Provides equitable opportunities for incentives, promotions and career development.

Value Statement

1.9. The Nurse develops and maintains own level of competence and fosters those of other nurses.

Explanatory Statement

Nursing is dynamic. It continues to develop and grow. New knowledge, information, and technology necessitate promotion of nurses' professional standards. Nurses have an obligation to promote and integrate new techniques and knowledge, especially in their particular field of practice; and they continue learning and acquiring current knowledge and skills.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Actively participates in continuous on-the-job learning activities.
- Assumes personal responsibility for gaining new knowledge and skills.
- Acknowledges his/her own limitations, and declines any duties unless able to perform.
- Refers clients to and consults with other nurses or health care team members who possess the expertise.
- Assists nursing colleagues and other health care team members to develop their professional competence.
- Mentors, teaches and guides nurses, nursing students and support workers.

Value Statement

1.10. The nurse is accountable for the development of a core of professional knowledge through research and dissemination of information.

Explanatory statement

Nurses engage in research for the purpose of developing the nursing profession's body of knowledge while protecting the client's rights for decision-making and privacy.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Participates in research and shares research findings with colleagues.
- Is a provider of evidence-based practice in his/her respective specialty areas.
- Gets approval from clients, their families, and nursing management before conducting research.
- Participates in guiding student's projects and research studies.

Value Statement

1.11. The Nurse maintains his/her own physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Explanatory Statement

Nurses need to engage in health-related activities and refrain from those which may jeopardize their health and well-being and are inconsistent with their abilities and roles as health care providers and advocates.

They are accountable for informing the employer about their own physical, emotional and mental ill health and those of other nurses. They must never compromise safe and competent client care.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Practices a healthy lifestyle to keep an optimal state of health.
- Recognizes and refrains from factors that may affect his/her own state of health.
- Promptly informs the employer about his/her own physical, emotional or mental ill health.

SCENARIO I

Read the following real scenarios:

1. "Staffing is limited on a busy medical ward - only one Registered nurse and two health care assistants are on duty . An elderly lady is very distressed due to severe constipation. The doctor orders a suppository. The staff nurse is aware that the health care assistant should not insert the suppository, but she is very busy with a dying patient. The health care assistant has observed suppositories being inserted many times and the elderly lady is shouting for relief. At the same time the dying patient and his family are in need of immediate attention. The staff nurse delegates to the health care assistants to carry out the doctor's order."
2. "Nurse (A), a recent graduate, noted that nurse (B) failed to do the appropriate assessment for the clients. She also observes that most of the clinical decisions of the nurse are based on general routine activities of the unit, and the nurse is at times rude to clients and is disorganized. No incidences have yet happened. The nurse graduate did not report her observations to the nurse manager for fear of losing popularity and being labeled as a problem maker."

Reflect on the ethical value of accountability, and its elements. Identify the dilemma in the above scenarios where accountability is ignored or violated. Discuss with professional colleague(s) the best course of action(s) and/or behavior(s).

DIGNITY

Dignity is the inherent perceptions of self-worth and self-respect of every client. Dignity is the fundamental value of nursing practice. The nurse strives to promote, protect and advocate the dignity and self-respect of those clients who are vulnerable and incapable of protecting their own interests.

Value Statement

2.1. The nurse understands and respects the individual's value system and maintains the individual's self-respect and dignity at all times.

Explanatory Statement

The individual's value system and lifestyle should be considered when planning nursing care with and for each client. Factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, personality and religious beliefs should be respected by the nurse; and tailored nursing care should be provided in a way that personal needs as well as cultural values are maintained.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Explores client's values and beliefs before planning nursing care.
- Respects client's wishes and values even if they are inconsistent with his/her own.
- Involves clients while planning nursing care, taking into consideration their values and life styles, needs and choices.
- Designs and implements nursing care which accommodates the social, cultural, and spiritual needs of clients.

Value Statement

2.2. The nurse recognizes and respects the uniqueness of individuals.

Explanatory statement

Health care is universal, transcending all national, ethnic, racial, religious, cultural, political, educational, economical, developmental, gender and personality differences. Therefore, nursing care is delivered without prejudicial behavior. The Nurse is morally obliged to respect human existence and the individuality of all persons who are the recipients of nursing care.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Does not compromise nursing care for any individual.
- Respects client's needs regardless of their background and status.
- Delivers nursing care in a non-judgmental manner.
- Is conscious of own value system and does not allow such to interfere in the provision of care.

Value Statement

2.3. The nurse provides and promotes the provision of accurate information and makes clients feel confident that they can make their own decisions.

Explanatory Statement

Providing accurate information means speaking or acting without deceiving. Nurses must provide adequate information for clients to make informed decisions on whether to accept or reject the health services provided. Furthermore, honesty builds up trust, which is essential to building a therapeutic relationship between nurses and clients.

Nurses will understand that clients from different cultures may react to truthfulness differently.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Assesses clients' readiness to receive information.
- Explains to the clients their right to receive information.
- Collaborates with physicians and other health care providers to ensure delivery of complete current information concerning the client's condition, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
- Assesses client's understanding of information received.
- Answers client's questions, or seeks out answers for clients.
- Uses professional judgment and consults with health team members if further information is relevant to clients.
- Accepts the points of view of those concerned for the patient/client when they do not want the client to be told about their health condition.

Value Statement

2.4. The nurse enables clients to live with as much physical, emotional and spiritual comfort as possible and maximizes the values they treasure in life.

Explanatory statement

Nurses will help clients to improve their health and attain the highest level of physical strength of which they are capable. This will maintain dignity and indicate that human life is precious; therefore, human life needs to be respected, protected and treated with consideration.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Respects and values client's knowledge of their own health status.
- Empowers client and family to participate in health care planning and decision-making.
- Provides quality health teaching relevant to the health problems.

Value Statement

2.5. The Nurse ensures that consent is properly understood in the process by which a client becomes an active participant in care.

Explanatory Statement

Informed consent has two elements: first, information given to the client about a procedure and/or treatment and second, consent obtained from the client, which means agreement to the procedure and/or treatment.

The client has the right to receive the full information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure, operation, or treatment. Nurses seek inter-professional and collaborative guidance to ensure that the client understands the information before consent is obtained.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The nurse collaborates with multidisciplinary team members and physicians to:

- Ensure that the treatment procedure is being completely explained to the patient.
- Explain alternative treatment or procedure and the potential for complications.
- Explain the possible effects of not having treatment or the procedure.
- Explain to the patient the right to refuse treatment or withdraw consent after giving it.

Value Statement

2.6. The nurse directs care towards the prevention and relief of suffering at all times

Explanatory statement

The nurse plans and directs nursing care for the individual client with the intention of strengthening his/her own capacity for care and recovery, thus achieving the highest possible degree of well-being. In the process, the nurse helps to alleviate pain and suffering.

Nursing practice involves comforting and caring for people of all ages. When life can no longer be sustained, nurses support a dignified and peaceful death.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Advocates health promotion and disease prevention initiatives when caring for clients.
- Uses professional knowledge and skills to intervene promptly to alleviate pain and suffering.
- With family support, alleviates suffering and supports a dignified and peaceful death.

SCENARIO II

Read the following real scenarios:

1. "A client's son, who is the next of kin, has decided that his semi-conscious father who is critically ill with COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and respiratory failure should no longer be treated on a life support system. He has been on the machine for too long. The son objects to any new medications. Nurses are not in agreement with the son's decision. They believe that the life support machine needs to be turned off only when the client's heartbeat stops."
2. "A human error took place in the admission room of the hospital. As a result, the nurse received two patients for admission at the same time, but the unit had only one empty bed available. One of the clients was a Bahraini citizen, businessman, while the other client was a foreigner who worked as a laborer. Both were for elective surgery, and the nurse had difficulty sending one of them home."

Reflect on the ethical value of dignity and its elements, Identify the dilemma in the above scenarios where client dignity is ignored or violated. Discuss with professional colleague(s) the best course of action(s) and / or behavior(s).

3. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY

Confidentiality means protecting all confidential information concerning patients/clients.

Privacy means limiting access to a person, the person's body, conversation, bodily function and objects immediately associated with the person, unless access is necessary to give care.

Value Statement

3.1. The nurse respects and ensures that clients privacy is maintained when care is delivered by him/her or others.

Explanatory Statement

Nurses ensure that privacy is provided during all nursing and other health care procedures and observe that the patient's/client's physical and emotional privacy is protected at all times.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Protects client's body from being exposed unnecessarily while performing any procedures.
- Ensures privacy when obtaining health and personal information about clients.
- Respects cultural norms and values of clients regarding gender specific issues.

Value Statement

3.2. The nurse respects the clients right to determine who will be told of their condition and in what detail.

Explanatory statement

All clients have the right to confidentiality. Nurses must respect this right and hold all information in confidence. The rights, safety and well-being of the clients are the issues that determine the disclosure of confidential information relevant to the client's treatment and care.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Ensures that the clients confidentiality is protected at all times.
- Ensures that in no circumstances, information about the clients condition is released to individuals not related to his/her care.
- Abides by the law and standards of practice in keeping all personal and health information confidential.
- Consults the client whenever information is to be released to family members.

Value Statement

3.3. *The nurse informs the clients that, when necessary, relevant information may be made available to others involved in the delivery of their health care.*

Explanatory Statement

In order to provide high quality care to the client, the nurse is required to share relevant data with members of the healthcare team. Only information relevant to the client's treatment and welfare is disclosed to individuals involved in the client's care.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Does not release any information about the client to unauthorized individuals.
- Informs the client or next of kin that other health care team members will have access to information obtained while caring for the client.
- Ensures that the client's information is used by authorized health personnel only.

Value Statement

3.4. *The nurse explains to clients that disclosure of information occurs without consent when the disclosure is required by law or by order of a court and also when it is in the public's best interest.*

Explanatory statement

In all situations, permission should be sought from clients regarding disclosure of information. However, according to the statutory laws, information about the client's condition may be shared with members of the multidisciplinary team or the court of law as determined by the public interest. Information should be disclosed under defined policies and protocols.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Familiarizes himself / herself with the policies and protocols governing the sharing of information about the client's condition with other agencies.
- Follows the standards of practice in determining the type of information that can be disclosed about the client.
- Ensures that the client's safety and welfare are maintained at all times.

Value Statement

3.5. The nurse obtains client's permission when information is required for teaching, research or quality assurance procedures, etc.

Explanatory Statement

In cases where the client's treatment records are to be used for research auditing or other non-clinical purposes in which anonymity cannot be guaranteed, the nurse must inform the client and obtain his/her consent. No information should be disclosed without the client's permission.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Informs the client about his/her involvement in research or other evaluative procedures such as unit auditing.
- Ensures that the client understands the purpose of the research before giving permission.
- Explains to the client his/her right to refuse to participate in any research or auditing process.
- Obtains written consent from the client for all research procedures that carry physical or psychological risks and an oral consent for all other non-invasive procedures.

Value Statement

3.6. The nurse intervenes appropriately when other health care providers fail to respect client's confidentiality and privacy.

Explanatory statement

The standards of Nursing practice require the nurse to protect the client against unlawful invasion of privacy, act as an advocate for the client and take appropriate action regarding incompetent, unethical or illegal practice by any member of the health care team.

BEHAVIORAL DIRECTIVES:

The Nurse:

- Protects the client's physical and emotional needs.
- Keeps all client's medical records safely protected from unauthorized persons.
- Advises/counsels the client about appropriate action when his/her privacy or confidentiality is violated.
- Reports about unethical or illegal practice of other members of the health care team to the proper authority.

SCENARIO III

Read the following scenarios :

1. "A 38 year old female patient Gravida 5, Para 4, was admitted to the labour room at 10 AM, with history of labour pain since 6 AM. While female doctor was performing vaginal examination to assess progress of labour, suddenly, senior male doctor pulled the curtain. This action caused the Client to be exposed totally to others."
2. "A female teacher was admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital with a history of overactive and disturbed behavior. She was diagnosed to be suffering from affective disorder. The headmistress of the school where this teacher was working contacted the ward supervisor and asked for information about the patient's condition. She also inquired about whether she would be fit to resume her job activity. The nurse, however, refused to give any information about the patient, which made the headmistress very angry."

Reflect on the ethical value of privacy and confidentiality and its elements. Identify the dilemma in the above scenarios where client privacy and confidentiality is ignored or violated. Discuss with professional colleague(s) the best course of action(s) and / or behavior(s).

SUMMARY OF VALUE STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTABILITY

- 1.1. The Nurse ensures compliance with the principles and responsibilities in this code of professional conduct.
- 1.2. The Nurse is accountable for the promotion of national health care initiatives and services.
- 1.3. The Nurse maintains safe and high standards of professional conduct in his/her area of practice.
- 1.4. The Nurse conducts him/herself in an honest and truthful manner that reflects credit on the profession and upholds its integrity.
- 1.5. The Nurse acts always in such a manner as to promote and safeguard the interests and well-being of patients and clients.
- 1.6. The Nurse is accountable for providing quality, cost-effective primary, secondary and tertiary nursing care.
- 1.7. The Nurse ensures delegation of aspects of client's care to competent members of healthcare team.
- 1.8. The Nurse managers establish and maintain high standards of environmental conditions and equitable social and economic welfare of employment.
- 1.9. The Nurse develops and maintains own level of competence and fosters those of other nurses.
- 1.10. The Nurse is accountable for the development of a core of professional knowledge through research and dissemination of information.
- 1.11. The Nurse maintains his/her own physical, mental and emotional well-being.

2. DIGNITY:

- 2.1. The Nurse understands and respects the individual's value system and maintains the individual's self-respect and dignity at all times.
- 2.2. The Nurse recognizes and respects the uniqueness of individuals.
- 2.3. The Nurse provides and promotes the provision of accurate information and makes clients feel confident so that they can make their own decisions.
- 2.4. The Nurse enables clients to live with as much physical, emotional, spiritual comfort as possible and maximize the values they treasure in life.
- 2.5. The Nurse ensures that consent is properly understood in the process by which a client becomes an active participant in care.
- 2.6. The Nurse directs care towards the prevention and relief of suffering at all times.

3. CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY:

- 3.1. The nurse respects and ensures that clients privacy is maintained when care is delivered by him/her or others.
- 3.2. The nurse respects the clients right to determine who will be told of their condition and in what detail.
- 3.3. The nurse informs the clients that, when necessary, relevant information may be made available to others involved in the delivery of their health care.
- 3.4. The nurse explains to clients that disclosure of information occurs without consent when the disclosure is required by law or by order of a court and also when it is in the public's best interest.
- 3.5. The nurse obtains clients permission when information is required for teaching, research or quality assurance procedures, etc.
- 3.6. The nurse intervenes appropriately when other health care providers fail to respect client's confidentiality and privacy.

REFERENCES

1. American Nurses Association (ANA). (1996). Code for Nurses with Interpretive statements. U.S.A: ANA.
2. Australian Nurses Association. (1992). Draft national nursing code of ethics. The Lamp 29-33.
3. Canadian Nurses Association (CNA). (1997). Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses. Canada: Canadian Nurses Association.
4. College of Nurses of Ontario. (1996). Guidelines for Professional Behavior: The Ethical Framework for Nursing. Canada: CNO.
5. Executive Board of the Health Minister's Council for GCC States, May 2001, Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing. 1st edition, Riyadh, KSA.
6. International Council of Nurses (ICN). (2000). The ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses. Geneva: ICN.
7. United Kingdom Central Council (UKCC). (1992). Code of Professional Conduct. London: UKCC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Office of Licensure and Registration, Ministry of Health would like to thank the following members for their contribution in the development of this document.

Members of the Task Force involved in the development of the National Code of Professional conduct for Nursing:

Mrs. Batool Al-Muhandis
(Chairperson of TF)
Dean, College of Health Sciences
Former President of BNS

Dr. Lulwa Jassim (Secretary)
Head of Psychiatric Nursing Program
College of Health Sciences

Mrs. Seham Al-Shaikh
Chief Nurse of Primary Health Care &
Public Health
Ministry of Health

Ms. Hakima G. A. Rahman
Head of Nursing Inservice Continuing
Education
Ministry of Health

Ms. Bernadette O'Connor Walker
Assistant Director of Nursing
American Mission Hospital

Members of the Task Force involved in the development of the Proposal of GCC Code of Professional Conduct for Nursing in consultation with Nursing Development Committee, MOH:

Ms. Layla Murad
(Chairperson of the TF)
Nurse Registrar
Office of Licensure and Registration, MOH
Member of GCC Ng. Committee

Ms. Beema Sultan
Senior Nursing Officer
SMC. Mat. Unit

Ms. Rula Al-Saffar
Lecturer,
College of Health Sciences

Ms. Badria Al-Kuwaity
Deputy Chief Nurse of Nursing Services
MOH Hospitals

Ms. Salwa Al-Nassary
Head of AD Nursing Program
College of Health Sciences

Ms. Layla Al-Asfoor
Head of Training & Development
Ministry of Health

Ms. Seham Al-Shaikh
Chief Nurse of Primary Health Care &
Public Health,
Ministry of Health, MOH

Major Sumaiya Hussain
Asst. P.N.O., BDF Hospital.
(BDF hospital representative in the NMLRC)

**Production Supervision
and Editorial Assistance**

Ms. Elizabeth Popovich
Educational Development Center
College of Health Sciences

Editorial Assistance:

Mr. Charles John Price
English Dept.
College of Health Sciences

Art and Illustration:

Mr. Denzil Browne
Educational Development Center
College of Health Sciences

Secretarial Assistance:

Mrs. Ruby Thampan
College of Health Sciences

Ms. Marykutty George
Office of Licensure
and Registration

Mrs. Masooma Hussain
College of Health Sciences

Ms. Bushra Al-Sammak
Office of Licensure
and Registration

NMLRC = Nursing and Midwifery Licensure and Registration Committee
BNS = Bahrain Nursing Society