



THE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NURSES/MIDWIVES

The ethical code of conduct focuses on the morals and ideals of nursing profession, while the professional code of conduct identifies the minimum requirements for practice in the profession. These two codes enhance and complement each other, and together with practice standards provide a working framework for nursing practice.

According to the Ethical and Professional Code of Conduct, persons registered with the Maldives Nursing and Midwifery Council shall at all times act in such a manner to justify public trust and confidence, uphold the good standing of the profession, serve the public interest and those to whom they care.

The following value statements form the framework for the Code of Ethical and Professional conduct-:

1. Complies with laws and legislated requirements.
2. Acts ethically, upholds and maintains the reputation and standards of professional practice, knowledge and competence.
3. Respect the rights and safe guard the interest of individual clients.
4. Support the nursing profession to obtain and maintain public trust and confidence, while serving the broader interest of the society.
5. Recognizes the personal professional accountability borne for both actions and omission in the course of professional practice.
6. Utilizes every opportunity to contribute to good health, education, and health promotion and disease prevention.
7. Maintain a high ethical standard in conduct of research.

Value Statement 1: Complies with laws and legislated requirements.

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Ensures that the name is entered in the register held by the Maldives Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- 1.2 Obtains a current practicing certificate issued by the council.
- 1.3 Practices within the area appropriate for the parts of the register, which her/his name is entered.
- 1.4 Practices within the principles, rules and regulations of nursing practice.

Value Statement 2: Acts ethically, upholds and maintains the reputation and standards of professional practice, knowledge and competence

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Follow the ethical and professional code of conduct set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council.
- 1.2 Uses the knowledge and skills for the benefit of clients and community.
- 1.3 Be accountable for practicing safely within her/his scope of practice.
- 1.4 Demonstrate competency in the practice-area currently engaged.
- 1.5 Uphold the established standards of professional nursing and/or its specialty fields.
- 1.6 Be responsible for maintain her/his professional standards.
- 1.7 Maintain and updates professional knowledge and skills in area of practice.
- 1.8 Observe rights and responsibility in the prescription, possession, use, supply, storage and administration of controlled drugs, medicines, and equipments.
- 1.9 Maintain accurately and completely required records related to nursing, midwifery or other fields of nursing.
- 1.10 Safeguard the health and safety of his/her clients against incompetent, unethical or illegal practices.
- 1.11 Ensure that the safety of their clients is not at risk by the commission or omission of any nursing care activity.

- 1.12 Alert the appropriate authority of any situations which may endanger the health or safety of clients or colleagues.
- 1.13 Practices in a manner, which is acceptable and currently safe.
- 1.14 Follow nursing practice in accordance to Maldivian Constitution.

Value Statement 3: Respect the rights and safe guard the interest of individual clients

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Acknowledges and allows for the individuality of people.
- 1.2 Provide information to enable the clients to exercise informed choice and consent to the delivery of professional nursing.
- 1.3 Respect privileged access, conferred by professional status, to clients' information and their possession, residencies and workplace.
- 1.4 Safeguard confidentiality and privacy of information obtained within the professional relationships. (Information provided to institutions such as human rights, police, court etc.)
- 1.5 Help clients understand their rights and acknowledge their responsibility related to the delivery of professional nursing or within midwifery and other related fields.
- 1.6 Beware of and be guided by the codes of rights and responsibility for clients and health care providers in area of practice.
- 1.7 Ensure that informed consent is granted by any client who is to be subjected to any procedure (surgical or otherwise) or to be used in the teaching or examination of any student's training, for any of the health professions.
- 1.8 Provide care in a cooperative manner with other health professions in order that the patients may receive comprehensive care and treatment.
- 1.9 Render appropriate care to support a dignified and peaceful death in such situations.
- 1.10 Ensure clients' interests and needs are recognized and considered by the entire healthcare team.
- 1.11 Safeguard clients from undue coercion to accept or change a particular course of action, if they do not choose to do so voluntarily.
- 1.12 Defend those clients who may be vulnerable and incapable of protecting their own interests where life can no longer be sustained.

Value Statement 4: Support nursing profession to obtain and maintain public trust and confidence, while serving broader interest of the society.

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Provide valid identification about her/his professional qualification and right to practice.
- 1.2 Deliver professional nursing care effectively and efficiently.
- 1.3 Use professional knowledge and skills to promote client safety and well-being.
- 1.4 Report to an appropriate person or authority any limitations in professional expertise or personal health status or circumstances, which could jeopardize patient / client safety.
- 1.5 State any relevant, conscientious objection that could impact on her/his scope of practice.
- 1.6 Respect the trust implicit in the professional nursing relationship.
- 1.7 Claim benefits or remuneration only as and when appropriate for service rendered.
- 1.8 Act in a way, which contributes to the good standing of the nursing profession.
- 1.9 Respect the uniqueness of each client, irrespective of ethnic origin, religious beliefs, personal attributes, political interest, and disease profile or any other matter.
- 1.10 Ensure that their nursing practice is based on the best available evidence in the current scientific literature
- 1.11 Provide a safe and therapeutic environment in promoting the wellbeing of the individual

Value Statement 5: Recognizes the personal professional accountability borne for both actions and omission in the course of professional practice

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Ensure that no action or omission on her/his part of responsibility is detrimental to the interest of condition of safety of the client.
- 1.2 Draw to the attention of an appropriate person of authority, any situation in which efficient and appropriate care cannot be delivered, whether by lack of personal knowledge/skills, or deficiencies in human or physical resources.
- 1.3 Provide accountability when delegating, and uses judgment in relation to individual competence when accepting or giving responsibility to others.
- 1.4 Respect the values of colleagues and collaborate with them to advocate ethical healthcare.
- 1.5 Share knowledge and expertise to resolve ethical issues.
- 1.6 Support the actions of colleagues who have protected their clients from incompetent, unsafe or unethical care.

Value Statement 6: Utilizes every opportunity to contribute to good health, education, and health promotion and disease prevention

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Provide assistance in the context of her/his knowledge experience and sphere of responsibility to educate and develop other's competence.
- 1.2 Promote and support the health and wellbeing and takes an active role in providing health education on various aspects of health and related issues to patients, relatives and colleagues.
- 1.3 Participate in developing research- based core of professional's knowledge and practice.
- 1.4 Work in partnership with other health care professionals and others in providing

Value Statement 7: Maintain a high ethical standard in conduct of research

Ethical practice point

The nurses/midwives shall

- 1.1 Ensure that research is conducted in a manner that does not cause harm to their clients or compromise the standards of care they receive.
- 1.2 Respect their clients' right to an informed and voluntary consent regarding participation in research, including the right to withdraw.
- 1.3 Ensure that consent is obtained from a family member, or person(s) legally authorized to make a decision, for those clients who are deemed incompetent.
- 1.4 Ensure that their clients' anonymity and confidentiality is maintained.
- 1.5 Comply with the ethical guidelines for research issued by relevant authorizes on health promotion and prevention programs in the interest of the society.