

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR VIETNAMESE NURSES

(For reference only)

Chapter I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Scope of regulation and subject of application

These ethical standards are applicable to all members of the Vietnam Nurse Association, Nursing Teachers and Chief Nurses at different levels (hereinafter referred to as Nurse).

Article 2. Objectives

1. To educate nurses about the self-application of ethical standards in nursing services;
2. To assist nurses in making appropriate decisions in each situation, in line with ethical standards;
3. To disseminate ethical standards for Vietnamese nurses, on which monitoring and evaluation activities of people, patients, and management authorities are based;
4. To disseminate ethical standards for Vietnamese nurses, which are aligned with the implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement in Nursing Services, adopted by Vietnam and other ASEAN Member States.

Chapter II

ETHICAL STANDARDS OF NURSES

Article 3. Ensure safety of patients

1. Maintain best practices at work.
2. Be responsible for all decisions and clinical practices in patient care.
3. Take timely interventions and report to responsible persons when experiencing clinical practices of professionals unsafe for patients.

Article 4. Respect patients and their family's members

1. Respect patients' age, gender, ethnicity, religion.
2. Respect patients' autonomy when taking care of them.

3. Respect patients' dignity, self-respect, self-esteem and ensure their privacy and confidentiality when taking care of them.
4. Provide adequate information about their treatments.
5. Safeguard patients' secrets related to their diseases and personal lives.
6. Treat all patients fairly and equally.

Article 5. Be friendly with patients and their family's members

1. Provide self-introduction and greetings to patients and their family's members in a friendly way.
2. Listen to patients and their family's members and reply in a caring and polite way.
3. Take care of patients with a friendly smile.
4. Help patients relieve their pains caused by their diseases and surgeries.

Article 6. Be honest at work

1. Be honest in managing and using medicines and other treatment materials.
2. Be honest in practicing professional care for patients and prescriptions.
3. Be honest in providing information to their medical records.

Article 7. Maintain and enhance professional capacity

1. Fully perform responsibilities of a nurse.
2. Follow technical processes, clinical instructions when taking care of patients.
3. Study on a continuous basis to update knowledge and professional skills.
4. Participate in research and evidence-based practice.

Article 8. Promote the profession's ethical standards

1. Maintain and preserve the profession's reputation when its values and standards are threatened and harmed by others.
2. Be dedicated to patient care and follow working regulations.
3. Refuse to receive money or other benefits from patients, their family's members for being prioritized in examination and treatment.
4. Respect Regulations of the Vietnam Nurse Association and participate in activities of the Association at different levels.

Article 9. Be candid and united with colleagues

1. Cooperate and assist colleagues in fulfilling tasks.
2. Respect and protect dignity and reputation of colleagues.
3. Share professional experiences and lessons learnt with colleagues.

Article 10. Commit oneself to community and society

1. Talk and act in accordance with legal regulations.
2. Be exemplary in community and at place of residence.
3. Participate in philanthropy and environment protection.

Chapter III

PROVISIONS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Article 11. Responsibility of the Central Executive Committee of the Vietnam Nurse Association

1. Collaborate with the Ministry of Health and the Vietnam Medical Association in promoting the implementation of these ethical standards.
2. Develop an implementation plan of the Ethical Standards for nurses at provincial/city level and branches of the Vietnam Nurse Association.
3. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of Ethical Standards for nurses at different levels of the Vietnam Nurse Association.
4. Organize preliminary and summary meetings to disseminate experience, lessons learnt, and case studies for replication to the whole system of the Vietnam Nurse Association.
5. Provide recommendations on timely rewards for branches of the Vietnam Nurse Association at different levels and individuals who show good performance and propose disciplines and punishments for those who make violations against these standards.

Article 12. Responsibility of Chairperson of Provincial Nurse Associations and Heads of Branches

1. Chairperson of Provincial/City Nurse Association
 - a) Collaborate with the Department of Health, Chief Nurse of the Department of Health, related departments at local levels to promote the implementation of Ethical Standards for nurses and develop an implementation plan for all branches of the Vietnam Nurse Association.
 - b) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of Ethical Standards for nurses at branches under direct management.
 - c) Organize preliminary and summary meetings to disseminate experience, lessons learnt, and case studies for replication to all branches of the Vietnam Nurse Association.
 - d) Provide recommendations on timely rewards for branches of the Vietnam Nurse Association and individuals who show good performance and

propose disciplines and punishments for those who make violations against these standards.

2. Heads of branches

- a) Collaborate with leaders of related departments, Chief Nurses of hospitals to develop an implementation plan and to organize trainings on Ethical Standards for nurses so that they will follow in their profession.
- b) Provide instructions for each member to fill out the self-evaluation form in accordance with the Ethical Standards (Annex 1).
- c) Collaborate with Chief Nurses to evaluate the implementation of Ethical Standards of members and provide feedbacks to each of them based on instructions of the Vietnam Nurse Association (Annex 2).
- d) Report the implementation of Ethical Standards of all members to the Vietnam Nurse Association and healthcare management agencies at the same level.
- e) Provide recommendations on timely rewards for members who show good performance and propose disciplines and punishments for those who make violations against these standards.