



## STANDARDS OF CONDUCT



The Standards of Conduct applies to Clinical Nurse Leaders (CNLs) certified and recertified by the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC), an autonomous arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The CNL must demonstrate ethical behaviors in the provision of safe, humanistic health care and maintain competencies through continuing education. The principles outlined below encapsulate a core set of values and behaviors required of the CNL:

**Altruism** is a concern for the welfare and well-being of others. In professional practice, altruism is reflected by the CNL's concern for the welfare of clients, other nurses, and colleagues.

- Demonstrate understanding of cultures, beliefs, and perspectives of others;
- Advocate for clients, particularly the most vulnerable;
- Take risks on behalf of clients and colleagues; and Mentor other professionals.

**Human Dignity** is respect for the inherent worth and uniqueness of individuals and populations. In professional practice, human dignity is reflected when the CNL values and respects all clients and colleagues.

- Provide culturally competent and sensitive care;
- Protect the client's privacy;
- Preserve the confidentiality of clients and health care providers; and
- Design care with sensitivity to individual client needs.

**Accountability** is the right, power, and competence to act. Accountability includes the autonomy, authority and control of one's actions and decisions. Professional practice reflects accountability when the CNL evaluates individual and group health care outcomes and modifies treatment or intervention strategies to improve outcomes. The CNL also uses risk analysis tools and quality improvement methodologies at the systems level to anticipate risk to any client and intervenes to decrease the risk.

- Evaluate client care and implement changes in care practices to improve outcomes of care;
- Serve as a responsible steward of the environment, and human and material resources while coordinating care;
- Use an evidence-based approach to meet specific needs of individuals, clinical populations or communities;
- Manage, monitor and manipulate the environment to foster health and health care quality; and
- Prevent or limit unsafe or unethical care practices.

**Integrity** is acting in accordance with an appropriate code of ethics and accepted standards of practice. Integrity is reflected in professional practice when the CNL is honest and provides care based on an ethical framework that is accepted within the profession.

- Provide honest information to clients and the public;
- Document care accurately and honestly;
- Seek to remedy errors made by self or others; and
- Demonstrate accountability for own actions and those of other health care team members under the supervision of the CNL.

**Social Justice** is upholding moral, legal, and humanistic principles. This value is reflected in professional practice when the CNL works to assure treatment under the law and access to quality health care.

- Support and promote availability and access to health care;
- Support fairness and non-discrimination in the delivery of care; and
- Encourage legislation and policy consistent with the advancement of nursing care and health care.