

Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements: An Exploration of the Process and Status of Re'Visioning our 2025 Code

Jennifer Bartlett, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CHSE, Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University

Co-Author(s): Kara Curry, MA, RN, HEC-C, American Nurses Association

Topic: Leading & Advancing Improvements in Health, Health Care, & Higher Education

Category: Quality Improvement/Evidence-Based Practice Project

Abstract

Background/Introduction

The Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (The Code) was written as a guide for all nurses, irrespective of specific role, education level, or specialty. The Code articulates responsibilities and actions consistent with safe, quality nursing care, and grounds the provisions in the ethical obligations of the profession.

Purpose

As the nursing profession grapples with stunning advances in technology, new and ongoing challenges to human rights, the evolution of language, and the acknowledgment of institutional/social/structural barriers to health equity, the American Nurses Association (ANA) Center for Ethics and Human Rights began the 2025 Code of Ethics for Nurses Re'Vision in summer 2023, with a final publication goal of spring 2025.

Methods or Processes/Procedures

Two of the six co-chairs of The Code revision panel will walk attendees through the organizational structure of the process, highlighting the expertise of key panel members and writers. Reviewing the 2015 framework of the provisions (nurse-to-patient, nurse-to-nurse, nurse-to-self, nurse-to-others, nurse-to-profession, nurse-to-society, and nursing-to-society) provides context for and insight into the revision process.

Results

An analysis of pressure points, challenging topics that generated discussion, historical and contemporary references, healthcare today, guidance from professional and academic organizations, and input from experts in ethics, education, and activism provides context for the revision.

Limitations

The 2025 Code will not be out for public comment until fall 2024. This session is a preliminary discussion.

Conclusions/Implications for Practice

The Code is written for all nurses. Opportunities for engagement in the revision of our Code will continue through fall 2024. Although the session will focus on transparency and providing context, the input of attendees will influence the direction of the Code and the final product. This is a unique opportunity to engage in the revision process in a meaningful way and trigger participants to integrate The Code in their teaching strategies as directed by the AACN Essentials.

Biography

Jennifer L. Bartlett, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CHSE, an Associate Professor at Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University, was appointed to the American Nurses Association Ethics Advisory Board and chairs their Ethics Education Subcommittee. Jennifer is currently serving as one of the six co-chairs on the revision of the 2025 Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. She is a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator with extensive experience in the development, implementation, and evaluation of simulation. Jennifer is the third author of the 9th and 10th editions of *Fundamentals of Nursing: The Art and Science of Person-Centered Care*.

Contact Information

Jennifer Bartlett, PhD, RN-BC, CNE, CHSE

Associate Professor

Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University

bartlett_jl@mercer.edu

(678) 540-8496
