

NURSING COUNCIL OF MAURITIUS

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This code of practice for Nurses and Midwives has been developed and established by the Nursing Council of Mauritius pursuant to section 12(f) of the Nursing Council Act.
- 1.2 The code of practice is a set of national standard of nursing conduct, performances and ethics for registered nurses in Mauritius.
- 1.3 The code is not intended to give detailed professional advice on specific issues and areas of practice rather it identifies the minimum requirement for conduct in the profession.
- 1.4 A breach of the code may constitute professional misconduct.

2. Purpose

The purpose of the code of practice for nurses and midwives in Mauritius is to:

- 2.1 set a national standard of conduct for the nursing profession;
- 2.2 inform the community about the national standard of professional conduct of nurses and midwives in Mauritius;
- 2.3 inform consumers, professional bodies and other stakeholders of the standards of professional conduct of nurses and midwives; and
- 2.4 Serve as a guide for self-evaluation and self-reflection of nurses and midwives.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The code of practice for nurses and midwives applies to all areas of nursing and midwifery.
- 3.2 This code of practice applies to registered nurses and midwives working in the public and private sector.

4. Safe and competent practice

- The nurse/midwife has an obligation to practice in a safe and competent manner.
- The nurse/midwife should report to the appropriate authority, for remedial action, of any situation that could jeopardize the standard of practice
- The nurse/midwife has an obligation to maintain competence by updating his knowledge, skills and abilities in the theory and practice of nursing and midwifery.
- The nurse/midwife should limit himself to his professional competence.
- The nurse/midwife must be aware that undertakings which are not within his scope of practice may compromise the safety of a customer. In situation where the nurse/midwife feels any doubt on his competence, he should seek guidance from a senior nurse/midwife or a registered medical practitioner.
- The nurse /midwife should be ready to share his knowledge, skill and experience to his colleagues or other paramedical staff and be involved in clinical teaching of junior nurses, nursing and medical students.

5. Quality Care

- The nurse/midwife should strive to provide the highest possible quality of care in any given situation, without any distinction or discrimination.
- It is the duty of every registered nurse/midwife to uphold and maintain the dignity and honour of the nursing profession.

6. Respect for the Customer

- In providing nursing and midwifery care the nurse/midwife should have respect for the customer's individual needs, values, culture and belief. The customer's right for information and informed consent or refusal for any treatment should be maintained.
- In making professional judgment in relation to customer's interest and right, a nurse/midwife must practise in accordance with laws relevant to the nurse/midwife's area of practice and in no circumstances he should contravene any law or breach the customer's human rights.

7. Confidentiality

- The nurse/midwife should hold in confidence any information about a customer that he obtains in the exercise of his function and ensure that such information is not disclosed without the customer's or the treating health Institution's consent unless it is for professional and legal purposes.
- In the absence of consent, a nurse/midwife must use professional judgment regarding the necessity to disclose particular details, giving due consideration to the interest, well being, health and safety of the customer.

8. Equity and Fairness

- The nurse/midwife should uphold the principles of equity and fairness towards all customers and should ensure that customers have access to health services responsive to their needs within the resources available.

9. Professional Ethic

- The nurse/midwife should maintain professional relationship with the customer and cooperate with others in the team.
- The nurse/midwife should not use his profession or status for promoting and marketing commercial products and services.
- The conduct of a nurse/midwife must at all time maintain and build public trust and confidence that upholds the reputation of the profession.
- A registered nurse/midwife shall maintain a high standard of professionalism, uphold the honour of the profession and avoid engaging into any conduct or activity which might lower the profession in the esteem of the public.

10. Fidelity

- The nurse/midwife has an obligation to be faithful to the responsibilities he undertakes.

- A nurse/midwife must promote and preserve the trust that is inherent in the privilege relationship between him and a customer. He shall also safeguard the belonging of a customer.

11. Identification

- The nurse/midwife should always wear the appropriate uniform and display conspicuously the applicable title and name to identify him in any healthcare setting.

12. Records keeping

- The nurse /midwife should keep appropriate documentation in the exercise of his function and ensure that such records are factually accurate.

13. Accountability

- The nurse/midwife is personally and professionally responsible and accountable for any action or omission in the exercise of his duty.

14. The nurse/midwife shall in all circumstances comply with the code of practice.