

United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

**Code of  
Professional  
Conduct**  
for the Nurse  
Midwife  
and Health  
Visitor

**UKCC**

**2nd Edition**

November 1984

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**Code of  
Professional Conduct**  
for the Nurse, Midwife  
and Health Visitor

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**Each registered nurse, midwife and health visitor shall act, at all times, in such a manner as to justify public trust and confidence, to uphold and enhance the good standing and reputation of the profession, to serve the interests of society, and above all to safeguard the interests of individual patients and clients.**

**Each registered nurse, midwife and health visitor is accountable for his or her practice, and, in the exercise of professional accountability shall:**

- 1 Act always in such a way as to promote and safeguard the well being and interests of patients/clients.
- 2 Ensure that no action or omission on his/her part or within his/her sphere of influence is detrimental to the condition or safety of patients/clients.
- 3 Take every reasonable opportunity to maintain and improve professional knowledge and competence.
- 4 Acknowledge any limitations of competence and refuse in such cases to accept delegated functions without first having received instruction in regard to those functions and having been assessed as competent.
- 5 Work in a collaborative and co-operative manner with other health care professionals and recognise and respect their particular contributions within the health care team.
- 6 Take account of the customs, values and spiritual beliefs of patients/clients.
- 7 Make known to an appropriate person or authority any conscientious objection which may be relevant to professional practice.

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- 8 Avoid any abuse of the privileged relationship which exists with patients/clients and of the privileged access allowed to their property, residence or workplace.
- 9 Respect confidential information obtained in the course of professional practice and refrain from disclosing such information without the consent of the patient/client, or a person entitled to act on his/her behalf, except where disclosure is required by law or by the order of a court or is necessary in the public interest.
- 10 Have regard to the environment of care and its physical, psychological and social effects on patients/clients, and also to the adequacy of resources, and make known to appropriate persons or authorities any circumstances which could place patients/clients in jeopardy or which militate against safe standards of practice.
- 11 Have regard to the workload of and the pressures on professional colleagues and subordinates and take appropriate action if these are seen to be such as to constitute abuse of the individual practitioner and/or to jeopardise safe standards of practice.
- 12 In the context of the individual's own knowledge, experience, and sphere of authority, assist peers and subordinates to develop professional competence in accordance with their needs.
- 13 Refuse to accept any gift, favour or hospitality which might be interpreted as seeking to exert undue influence to obtain preferential consideration.
- 14 Avoid the use of professional qualifications in the promotion of commercial products in order not to compromise the independence of professional judgement on which patients/clients rely.

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## **Notice to all Registered Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors**

This Code of Professional Conduct is issued by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

It is issued for the guidance and advice of all registered nurses, midwives and health visitors.

Further explanatory notes, discussion papers or comments on specific points in the Code of Professional Conduct may be issued by the Council from time to time.

The Code will be subject to periodic review by the Council.

The Council expects members of the profession to recognise it as their responsibility (as well as the Council's) to re-appraise the relevance of the Code to the professional and social context in which they practice.

The Council will welcome suggestions and comments for consideration in its periodic review of the Code of Professional Conduct. Such suggestions and comments should be sent to:

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