

Code of Ethics



Preamble

The fundamental responsibility of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse is to assist clients to achieve and maintain optimal mental health, to alleviate suffering; and to promote mental health.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse renders mental health nursing services to the individual, groups, family and community.

The ethics that guide this service evolve from beliefs held in common by members of the psychiatric nursing profession and the society within which it functions.

At the core of psychiatric nursing practice is the therapeutic relationship between the individual, family, group and/or community and the individual Registered Psychiatric Nurse. Establishing and maintaining a professional therapeutic relationship is the responsibility of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse, not the client, and every act or behaviour of the Registered Psychiatric Nurse must benefit the client. Above all, the Professional Code of Ethics is designed to provide guidance to protect the integrity of the therapeutic relationship.

The Code is divided into five sections representing areas of professional nursing obligation. Adoption of the Code reflects the efforts of the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of British Columbia and its members to accept responsibility for the values expressed.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse and the Individual

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse:

- Respects and accepts an individual's uniqueness and integrity regardless of colour; race; national or ethnic origin; creed; sex; age; marital; family or legal status; lifestyle; or social status.
- Is guided by consideration for the dignity, rights and independence of all clients.

- Holds in confidence all information obtained in the nurse-client relationship and use professional judgement in sharing information when this is the best interest of the client and society.
- Is obligated to inform clients about their care and to ensure informed consent prior to providing care.
- Demonstrates respect for the right of choice and personal freedoms held by clients and acknowledges that clients are partners in the decision-making process.
- Upholds the competent person's legal and moral right to refuse treatment and to choose to live at risk, as long as those decisions are in keeping with the law.
- Maintains a current awareness and will be compliant with all provincial legislation relating to confidentiality.
- Will not initiate or participate in any practice that is considered harmful to the welfare of clients.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse and Practice

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse:

- Accepts responsibility for specific acts and functions based on the Standards of Practice prepared by the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC.
- Practices within one's own level of competency; additional help or supervision will be sought when aspects of client care required are beyond their level of expertise.
- Provides competent care to clients based on the Standards of Practice and is accountable for outcomes of nursing actions.
- Actively participates in the Continuing Competency Program.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse and Society

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse:

- Shares with other citizens the responsibility for initiating and supporting action to meet the mental health needs of individuals, families and groups within our society.
- Is committed to client advocacy, public

education and consumer involvement.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse and Co-Workers

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse:

- Co-operates and collaborates with other health team members to meet clients' needs for care.
- Reports to the appropriate authorities and to the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of BC any incompetent or unethical behaviour of associates, while guarding against petty or trivial accusations.
- Takes appropriate action when actions of any health team member are not in conformity with accepted standards of care.

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse and the Profession

The Registered Psychiatric Nurse:

- Demonstrates knowledge of and practices within the boundaries defined by the provincial legislation related to the practice of psychiatric nursing.
- Takes responsibility for continuing individual professional growth and development.
- Shares with the professional College, governments, educational facilities and employers, the responsibility for ensuring that programs for the professional development and continued quality of care are available.
- Participates in the efforts of the profession to develop, maintain, monitor, and review the Standards of Psychiatric Nursing Practice and Psychiatric Nursing Education, as legislated under the Health Professions Act.
- Refrains from permitting their name along with professional credentials to be used in connection with the endorsement of commercial products.

The Psychiatric Nurses' **PLEDGE**



I DO HEREBY PLEDGE my whole-hearted service to those entrusted to my care... endeavouring at all times to understand the patient's individual emotional and physical needs and differences... To that end, I will strive for skill in the fulfillment of my duty, holding sacred and inviolate all confidences entrusted to me.

I PROMISE to respect the personal rights and privileges of my patient, and to do all in my power to prevent or alleviate physical or psychological discomfort.

I WILL always be kind, tolerant and just... I will endeavour to cultivate a keen sense of observation and an understanding attitude.

I ACKNOWLEDGE the dignity of my profession and accept the obligation it implies... I will faithfully perform my duties, and will give the utmost in cooperation to those persons with whom I associate in ministering to the mentally ill.

**ALL OF WHICH, I PLEDGE
ON MY SACRED HONOUR.**