



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF  
NURSE ANESTHETISTS**

**CODE OF ETHICS**

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## International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists

### Code of Ethics

#### Preamble

The fundamental responsibility of the nurse anesthetist is to provide or participate in the provision of advanced specialized nursing and anesthesia services to patients requiring anesthesia, respiratory care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and/or other emergency, life-sustaining services where ever required. Advanced specialized nursing and anesthesia services incorporate the behavioral and biological sciences into practice as they relate to patients and their families. Inherent in anesthesia nursing practice is respect for life, dignity and rights of man. It is unrestricted by considerations of nationality, race, creed, color, age, sex, politics or social status.

The purpose of a code of ethics is to acknowledge a profession's acceptance of the responsibility and trust conferred upon it by society and to recognize the international obligations inherent in that trust. The International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists Code of Ethics is devised from the premise that as health care professionals, nurse anesthetists must strive, both on an individual and collective basis, to pursue the highest possible ethical standards.

#### Ethical Concepts

##### I. Nurse Anesthetist and People

- A. The nurse anesthetist's primary responsibility is to those people who require anesthesia nursing care. In providing care, the nurse anesthetist promotes an environment in which the values, customs and spiritual beliefs of the individual are respected.
- B. The nurse anesthetist defends the patient's right to privacy by protecting information of a confidential nature from those who do not need such information for patient care.
- C. A nurse anesthetist maintains personal integrity, acts to safeguard patients from the unethical or illegal actions of any person and strives to establish his or her freedom of conscious as it pertains to patients and all members of the health care team.

##### II. Nurse Anesthetist and Practice

- A. The nurse anesthetist provides services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the patient, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.



- B. The nurse anesthetist continually demonstrates a high level of competence. Competence is a composite of the individual's professional knowledge, judgment, values, and technological and interpersonal skills.
- C. The nurse anesthetist is responsible and accountable for individual professional judgments and actions and is an advocate for the patient's rights.

### **III. Nurse Anesthetist and Society**

- A. The nurse anesthetist has a two-fold obligation to society: as a professional, licensed to render selected health care services, and as a responsible member of society and the community in which he or she lives.
- B. The nurse anesthetist participates in the profession's effort to protect the public from misinformation and misrepresentation and to maintain the integrity of the profession.
- C. The nurse anesthetist collaborates with other members of the health care team and other citizens in promoting community and national efforts to meet the health needs of the public.

### **IV. Nurse Anesthetist and Co-Workers**

- A. The nurse anesthetist sustains cooperative relationships between nurse anesthetists, physician anesthetists, and other members of the medical profession, the nursing profession, hospitals, and agencies representing a community of interest in nurse anesthesia.
- B. The nurse anesthetist treats all associates and co-workers with fairness, consistency, reliability, trustworthiness, honesty, dependability and sincerity.

### **V. Nurse Anesthetist and the Profession**

- A. The nurse anesthetist plays a major role in determining and implementing desirable standards of nurse anesthesia practice and education.
- B. The nurse anesthetist participates in activities that contribute to the ongoing development of the profession's body of knowledge.
- C. The nurse anesthetist protects the rights of patients of animals in research projects and conducts projects according to accepted ethical research and reporting standards.
- D. The nurse anesthetist participates in the profession's effort to establish and



maintain conditions of employment conducive to high quality nurse anesthesia care.

### **Suggestions for Application of Concepts of Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics is a guide for action based on values and needs of society. It will have meaning only if it becomes a living document applied to the realities of human behavior in a changing society.

In order to achieve its purpose the code must be understood, internalized and utilized by nurse anesthetists in all aspects of their work. It must be put before and be continuously available to students and practitioners throughout their study and work lives.

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