



SUPER

Practical nurse's ethical guidelines





SOCIAL WELFARE, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION SECTOR

Work in the social welfare, health care and education sectors creates a foundation for the functioning of society. Practical nurses work close to clients and patients who need professional care and support. Practical nurse work is support, guidance and care, upbringing and health promotion based on the physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs of the patient and the customer.

The professional in social, health and education is required to have good interpersonal and interpretation skills, honesty, and the ability to work with different people. Professional in the field works constructively and values their own work and the work of others. The professional in the field works constructively and values their own work and the work of others. Practical nurse commits to the objectives and values of the chosen field, as well as the accepted working methods.

Regulations and principles of professional ethics in the social, health and education sector guide the activities of professionals. Professional competence ensures the realization of people's rights and well-being as equally as possible between clients and client groups. The aim is to promote a good life and justice in society.

The National Advisory Board on Ethics in Social Welfare and Health Care (ETENE) has drawn up ethical recommendations for the social welfare and health care sector. These ethical recommendations can be applied in the education sector as well.

SuPer's working group has made additions to the list of early childhood education and care and the education sector:

- Social welfare and health care is based on the interests of the client and the patient. In early childhood education, the objective of the activity is the best interests of the child.
- Social welfare, health care and education actors respect the dignity and fundamental rights of their clients.
- Social welfare, health care and education work is about interaction.
- Social welfare and healthcare professionals are responsible for the quality of their work.
- Good care, service and practical nurses show professional responsibility and working culture.

The work of a practical nurse is regulated by several laws and regulations that must be followed. Practical nurse must respect the individuality of the clients and families, as well as the ethnic and cultural diversity of groups and communities. Practical nurse respects the client's and patient's right to self-determination and always provides good service. The employee is obliged to treat all patients and clients equally regardless of their age, culture, gender, marital status, abilities, social or economic status, political opinions, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religion or belief.

Work in the social welfare, health care and education sector is based on trust, as patients and clients reveal personal things about their privacy, family, relatives, loved ones and work. Confidentiality is emphasized in client relationships, but extends to the work community as well. Employees are bound by the secrecy and data protection required by legislation.

Secrecy regulations apply to social media as well. It is important to know what are the accepted usage methods of social media during working hours. Employer may also prohibit the use of social media during working hours. The employer should not be publicly criticized and the employee has a duty of secrecy.

Statutory notification obligation requires that the professional submits, if necessary, a child welfare notification, a notification of a person in need of social care or a notification of an elderly person's need for service. The secrecy regulation does not prevent from submitting a report. The employee is required by law to notify the supervisor of any perceived defect in their work unit as well.

The work of a practical nurse is guided by the rules of the Finnish working life as well. Work places have their own mutually agreed instructions and rules. The rules governing work are the same for all employees regardless of their cultural background. The work of a practical nurse is independent, multi-professional in nature and requires working in networks.





PROFESSION OF A PRACTICAL NURSE

The work of a practical nurse is to support growth, development, well-being and rehabilitation, promote health, treat illnesses, maintain hope, and care. Practical nurse works as a member of the working group and is independently responsible for their own work. Practical nurse works close to people, for example, by helping and supporting them in day-to-day activities. Practical nurse enables the client to express their opinions and influence their own affairs.

The profession of a practical nurse requires strong professional ethics, good interaction and cooperation skills, utilisation of researched information, as well as practical work skills. Each student and graduate practical nurse is responsible for the implementation of professional ethics in their work. In their work, practical nurse makes decisions that affect the life, health and well-being of the clients. The decisions partly concern small and unobtrusive choices on behalf of or with clients, but they can have a major impact on an individual's life. Practical nurse must not violate the privacy of the client and must secure the realization of right to self-determination. Respectful encounter requires a practical nurse to be discreet and able to listen.

The work of a practical nurse requires constant readiness to identify, reflect on and resolve ethical issues related to the work. Challenging situations arise in the work, to which there are no unambiguous answers. When values and norms conflict, ethical problem arises. Ethical burden arises when a practical nurse experiences a conflict between good care and day-to-day realities. In conflict situations, professional activities and reflection on ethical issues in the work community are emphasized. The employee has the right to support and occupational health and safety.

In their work, practical nurse needs a strong professional identity, courage to work in their own person, as well as ethical consideration and decision-making. Practical nurse's own activities must be ethically sustainable in all respects. Practical nurse has a professional ethical obligation to care for the protection of the health of the persons they are caring for. For example, the Communicable Diseases Act requires vaccination protection for all persons who work in client and patient facilities. Vaccination protection is required in client transports as well, where clients or patients from risk groups are treated and where there is a possibility of infection or its spread.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICAL NURSE

The purpose of the common ethical guidelines for the social welfare, health care and education sector, as well as the practical nurse's own, is to help find generally accepted principles and correct practices in relation to the client. The purpose of the ethical guidelines of practical nurses is to highlight the special characteristics of practical nurses' work and to help with ethical reflection. The ethical principles have been developed to support the work of a practical nurse when they are faced with choices and make decisions that affect other people's lives. Ethical choices are present in every moment: every action or omission is an ethical choice.

Ethical consideration is choices related to professional activities. Ethics is realized as actions and is reflected in the construction of a confidential relationship between the client and the professional.

Respect for human dignity

- The work of a practical nurse is based on respect for human dignity and life.
- Each person must have the opportunity to growth and development, and right to good and valuable life, regardless of their life situation.
- Practical nurse
 - treats each person well and with dignity, treating them as a unique individual.
 - respects a person's privacy and personal life values.
 - addresses the patient and client according to their wishes.

Right to self-determination

- The client has the right to independent life and decision-making in matters concerning their care.
- Practical nurse
 - ensures that the client and the patient receive the necessary information about matters concerning them and their influencing opportunities.
 - takes into account the need for privacy of the client and patient and values them regardless of their personal life situation.
 - complies with the regulations concerning the right to self-determination and always act in the interests of the client in restriction measures.

Justice

Practical nurse

- promotes the realization of justice and well-being.
- advocates the client's inclusion within their resources.
- takes care of the task provided to them by the society and is aware of the clients' and patients' rights and related pivotal regulations.

Equality

Practical nurse

- treats all clients and patients, as well as family members and co-workers equally, regardless of clients position, life situation, gender, age, religion, culture, ethnical background, belief or opinion.
- on their own behalf, promotes the realization of equality in their work and work community.

Responsibility

Practical nurse

- is responsible for their own work primarily to the client, patient and employer. treats the patients and customers according to clientplan.
- acts according to early childhood education plan in early childhood education.
- is responsible for the safety of clients, as well as the working environment.
- acts honestly, confidentially, and complies with the secrecy obligation.
- maintains their own professional expertise.

Sense of community

Practical nurse

- co-operates constructively with other professionals for the benefit of the clients and patients.
- brings up their own views to develop work and work community.
- has the courage to address difficult issues.
- promotes the cohesion and well-being of the work community.
- takes care of their own well-being at work.
- participates actively in the development of their own sector and profession in the work community and society.

Hope

Hope is a basic element of human life, a prerequisite for successful adaptation and a basic life resource that promotes well-being. Hope plays a key role in nursing. It is important for the patient and the client, their loved ones, nurses and the entire care organisation. Hope requires trust in the client relationship and arises from interaction. The task of a practical nurse is to maintain and strengthen the hope of the client and their loved ones. In order to maintain and strengthen the hope of clients and loved ones, it is necessary to maintain and strengthen the practical nurse's hope as well.



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PRACTICAL NURSE'S PLEDGE

As a practical nurse, I promise to do my work with respect for the client's dignity and to promote a good life.

I promise to support human growth and development, functional capacity and self-reliance, as well as promote health and care for the sick.

I promise to take care of those in need, prevent social exclusion, and alleviate human suffering from the beginning of life until death.

I promise to adhere to the principles of professional ethics and professional secrecy, to develop my professional skills, and to promote my own and my work community's wellbeing at work.

I commit to the development of my work community, as well as the social welfare, health care and education sector.



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