



ETHICS & PATIENT RIGHTS



Ethics are principles that describe what is expected in terms of right or correct and wrong or incorrect in terms of behavior.

Client rights are based on the universal declaration of human rights and need to be advocated for and upheld by nurses.

Ethical principles

- **Justice:** fairness in distributing care
- **Beneficence:** doing good and the right thing
- **Nonmaleficence:** doing no harm
- **Autonomy** and client self-determination: accept client as unique person
- **Accountability:** accept responsibility for own actions
- **Fidelity:** keeping one's professional promises
- **Veracity:** truthfulness

ANA NURSING CODE OF ETHICS

- Establishes ethical standard for the profession
- Provides guide to use in ethical decision-making



Situations that can cause ethical dilemmas

- Staffing ratios and limited resources
- End-of-life issues
- Informed consent issues
- Medical errors
- Waiting lists
- Bioethical issues

Client rights

- **Privacy**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Respect and dignity**
- **Select** their doctors
- **Transparency** of condition and treatments
- **Autonomous decisions** about care incl. reject treatment
- **Freedom from abuse** and neglect
- Access to **emergency services**
- Manage and control **finances** and property
- Competent and compassionate **care**
- **Religious** freedom
- **Social** freedom
- **Accurate billing**
- Express **complaints** and be heard

HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

- ▶ upholds clients' rights to confidentiality and privacy of their medical information

