

TIPS FOR NURSES PROVISION 5

*ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses
with
Interpretive Statements*



DUTY TO CARE FOR PATIENTS

Nurses assume risk in providing care for patients, but there may be limits to the personal risk of harm nurses can be expected to accept as an ethical duty.



BASE ASSESSMENT OF RISK ON RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

When nurses are faced with a potential of harm to themselves or their patient, they must base their assessment of risk on research and evidence.



BALANCING PERSONAL SAFETY

Nurses must decide whether to accept the personal risk to self that exceeds the limits of duty. Any agreement to accept risk must be fully informed and voluntary. Nurses may choose not to accept the personal risk to self and this may have formal and informal consequences.



DUTY TO SELF

Nurses have the same duties to self as to others including the responsibility to promote health and safety. Nurses must ensure that they are well-rested, nourished, physically fit for required duties, and in the appropriate mental and emotional state to care for other.



LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION & FRONT LINE NURSES

The weight of moral adversity and distress falls equally on nurses in all roles. Nurse leaders in all roles and at all levels should work to create a healthy work environment and an atmosphere that promotes transparent decision-making and mindfulness.



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL IDENTITIES

Nurses must balance immediate and long-term benefits to patients with other obligations, including personal health, family obligations and preserving their ability to care for other patients.