CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES

WHEREAS, the Board of Nursing (BON) has the power to promulgate a Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses in coordination and consultation with the accredited professional organization (Sec. 9, (g), Art III of (Republic Act) No. 9173, known as the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002);

WHEREAS, in the formulation of the Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses, the Code of Good Governance for the Professions in the Philippines was utilized as the principal basis thereof: All the principles under the said Code were adopted and integrated into the Code of Ethics as they apply to the nursing profession;

WHEREAS, the promulgation of the said Code as a set of guidelines, regulations or measures shall be subject to approval by the Commission (Sec. 9, Art. II of R.A. No. 9173); and

WHEREAS, the Board, after consultation on October 23, 2003 at Iloilo City with the accredited professional organization of registered nurses, the Philippine Nurses Association, Inc. (PNA), and other affiliate organizations of Registered Nurses, decided to adopt a new Code of Ethics under the afore-mentioned new law;

NOW, THERFORE, the Board hereby resolved, as it now resolves, to promulgate the hereunder Code of Ethics for Registered Nurses:

ARTICLE I
PREAMBLE

SECTION 1.

Health is a fundamental right of every individual. The Filipino registered nurse, believing in the worth and dignity of each human being, recognizes the primary responsibility to preserve health at all cost. This responsibility encompasses promotion of health, prevention of illness, alleviation of suffering, and restoration of health. However, when the foregoing are not possible, assistance towards a peaceful death shall be his/her obligation.

SECTION 2.

To assume this responsibility, registered nurses have to gain knowledge and understanding of man's cultural, social, spiritual, physiological, psychological, and ecological aspects of illness, utilizing the therapeutic process. Cultural diversity and political and socio-economic status are inherent factors to effective nursing care.

SECTION 3.

The desire for the respect and confidence of clientele, colleagues, co-workers, and the members of the community provides the incentive to attain and maintain the highest possible degree of ethical conduct.

ARTICLE II
REGISTERED NURSES AND PEOPLE

SECTION 4.

Ethical Principles

1. Values, customs, and spiritual beliefs held by individuals shall be respected.
2. Individual freedom to make rational and unconstrained decisions shall be respected.
3. Personal information acquired in the process of giving nursing care shall be held in strict confidence.

SECTION 5.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *consider the individuality and totality of patients when they administer care.*
b. *respect the spiritual beliefs and practices of patients regarding diet and treatment.*
c. *uphold the rights of individuals.*
d. *take into consideration the culture and values of patients in providing nursing care. However, in the event of conflicts, their welfare and safety must take precedence.*

ARTICLE III
REGISTERED NURSES AND PRACTICE

SECTION 6.

Ethical Principles

1. Human life is inviolable.
2. Quality and excellence in the care of the patients are the goals of nursing practice.
3. Accurate documentation of actions and outcomes of delivered care is the hallmark of nursing accountability.

SECTION 7.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *know the definition and scope of nursing practice which are in the provisions of R. A. No. 9173, known as the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002" and Board Res. No. 425, Series of 2003, the "Rules and Regulations Implementing the Philippine Nursing Act. of 2002", (the IRR).*

b. *be aware of their duties and responsibilities in the practice of their profession as defined in the "Philippine Nursing Act of 2002" and the IRR.*
c. *acquire and develop the necessary competence in knowledge, skills, and attitudes to effectively render appropriate nursing services through varied learning situations.*
d. *if they are administrators, be responsible in providing favorable environment for the growth and developments of Registered Nurses in their charge.*
e. *be cognizant that professional programs for specialty certification by the BON are accredited through the Nursing Specialty Certification Council (NSCC).*
f. *see to it that quality nursing care and practice meet the optimum standard of safe nursing practice.*
g. *insure that modification of practice shall consider the principles of safe nursing practice. i. if in position of authority in a work environment, be normally and legally responsible for devising a system of minimizing occurrences of ineffective and unlawful nursing practice.*
h. *if in position of authority in a work environment, be normally and legally responsible for devising a system of minimizing occurrences of ineffective and unlawful nursing practice.*
i. *ensure that patients' records shall be available only if they are to be issued to those who are professionally and directly involved in their care and when they are required by law.*

SECTION 8.

Ethical Principle

4. Registered Nurses are the advocates of the patients: they shall take appropriate steps to safeguard their rights and privileges.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *respect the "Patients' Bill of Rights" in the delivery of nursing care.*
b. *provide the patients or their families with all pertinent information except those which may be deemed harmful to their well-being.*
c. *uphold the patients' rights when conflict arises regarding management of their care.*

SECTION 9.

Ethical Principle

5. Registered Nurses are aware that their actions have professional, ethical, moral, and legal dimensions. They strive to perform their work in the best interest of all concerned.

SECTION 10.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *perform their professional duties in conformity with existing laws, rules regulations. measures, and generally accepted principles of moral conduct and proper decorum.*

b. *not allow themselves to be used in advertisement that should demean the image of the profession (i.e. indecent exposure, violation of dress code, seductive behavior, etc.).*
c. decline any gift, favor or hospitality which might be interpreted as capitalizing on patients.
d. not demand and receive any commission, fee or emolument for recommending or referring a patient to a physician, a co-nurse or another health care worker; not to pay any commission, fee or other compensations to the one referring or recommending a patient to them for nursing care.
e. avoid any abuse of the privilege relationship which exists with patients and of the privilege access allowed to their property, residence or workplace.

ARTICLE IV
REGISTERED NURSES AND CO-WORKERS

SECTION 11.

Ethical Principles

1. The Registered Nurse is in solidarity with other members of the healthcare team in working for the patient's best interest.
2. The Registered Nurse maintains collegial and collaborative working relationship with colleagues and other health care providers.

SECTION 12.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *maintain their professional role/identity while working with other members of the health team.*
b. *conform with group activities as those of a health team should be based on acceptable, ethico-legal statndards.*
c. *contribute to the professional growth and development of other members of the health team.*
d. *actively participate in professional organizations*.
e. *not act in any manner prejudicial to other professions.*
f. *honor and safeguard the reputation and dignity of the members of nursing and other professions; refrain from making unfair and unwarranted comments or criticisms on their competence, conduct, and procedures; or not do anything that will bring discredit to a colleague and to any member of other professions. PRC-BN*
g. *respect the rights of their co-workers.*

ARTICLE V
REGISTERED NURSES, SOCIETY, AND ENVIRONMENT

SECTION 13.

Ethical Principles

1. The preservation of life, respect for human rights, and promotion of healthy environment shall be a commitment of a Registered Nurse.
2. The establishment of linkages with the public in promoting local, national, and international efforts to meet health and social needs of the people as a contributing member of society is a noble concern of a Registered Nurse.

SECTION 14.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *be conscious of their obligations as citizens and, as such, be involved in community concerns.*
b. *be equipped with knowledge of health resources within the community, and take roles in primary health care.*
c. *actively participate in programs, projects, and activities that respond to the problems of society.*
d. *lead their lives in conformity with the principles of right conduct and proper decorum.*
e. *project an image that will uplift the nursing profession at all times.*

ARTICLE VI
REGISTERED NURSES AND THE PROFESSION

SECTION 15.

Ethical Principles:

1. Maintenance of loyalty to the nursing profession and preservation of its integrity are ideal.
2. Compliance with the by-laws of the accredited professional organization (PNA), and other professional organizations of which the Registered Nurse is a member is a lofty duty.
3. Commitment to continual learning and active participation in the development and growth of the profession are commendable obligations.
4. Contribution to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions and general welfare of nurses through appropriate legislation is a practice and a visionary mission.

SECTION 16.

Guidelines to be observed:
REGISTERED Nurses must

a. *be members of the **Accredited Professional Organization (PNA).***
b. *strictly adhere to the nursing standards. PRC-BN*
c. *participate actively in the growth and development of the nursing profession.*
d. *strive to secure equitable socio-economic and work conditions in nursing through appropriate legislation and other means.*
e. *assert for the implementation of labor and work standards.*

ARTICLE VII
ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES, REPEALING CLAUSE, AND EFFECTIVITY

SECTION 17.

The Certificate of Registration of Registered Nurse shall either be revoked or suspended for violation of any provisions of this Code pursuant to Sec. 23 (f), Art. IV of R. A. No. 9173 and Sec. 23 (f), Rule III of Board Res. No. 425, Series of 2003, the IRR.

SECTION 18.

The Amended Code of Ethics promulgated pursuant to R. A. No. 877 and P.D. No. 223 is accordingly repealed or superseded by the herein Code.

SECTION 19.

This Code of Ethics for Nurses shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its full and complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspapers of general circulation.

Done in the City of Manila, this 14th day of July, 2004.

(original signed)
EUFEMIA F. OCTAVIANO
Chairman

(original signed)
REMEDIOS L. FERNANDEZ
Member

(original signed)
LETTY G. KUAN
Member

(original signed)
ANESIA B. DIONISIO
Member

(original signed)
FLORENCE C. CAWAON
Member

ATTESTED:

(original signed)
CARLOS G. ALMELOR
Secretary, Professional Regulatory Boards

APPROVED:

(original signed)
ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson

(original signed)
AVELINA A. DELA REA
Commissioner

(original signed)
LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Commissioner