

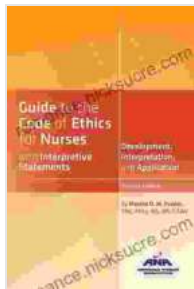
# A Comprehensive Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses

The Code of Ethics for Nurses (CEN) is a set of principles that guide the ethical behavior of nurses. It is designed to help nurses make ethical decisions in their practice and to promote the highest standards of care for patients. The CEN was first developed in 1950 by the American Nurses Association (ANA) and has been revised several times since then. The current version of the CEN was adopted in 2015.

The CEN is based on the following four principles:

- **Autonomy:** The right of patients to make decisions about their own care.
- **Beneficence:** The duty of nurses to promote the good of their patients.
- **Nonmaleficence:** The duty of nurses to avoid harming their patients.
- **Justice:** The duty of nurses to treat all patients fairly.

These principles are further elaborated in the nine provisions of the CEN. The provisions are as follows:



## Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses: Interpretation and Application by Dr. Alison DiBarto Goggin

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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1. **Respect for human dignity.** Nurses must respect the inherent dignity of all persons, regardless of their age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.
2. **Patient autonomy.** Nurses must respect the right of patients to make decisions about their own care.
3. **Beneficence.** Nurses must promote the good of their patients.
4. **Nonmaleficence.** Nurses must avoid harming their patients.
5. **Justice.** Nurses must treat all patients fairly.
6. **Confidentiality.** Nurses must protect the confidentiality of patient information.
7. **Competence.** Nurses must be competent in the care they provide.
8. **Workload management.** Nurses must manage their workload to ensure that they can provide safe and effective care.
9. **Ethics and the law.** Nurses must comply with both ethical principles and the law.

The CEN provides guidance for nurses in a variety of situations. Some of the most common ethical issues that nurses face include:

- **Confidentiality:** Nurses have a duty to protect the confidentiality of patient information. This includes both written and verbal information.

Nurses should only disclose patient information when it is necessary for the patient's care or when required by law.

- **Competence:** Nurses have a duty to be competent in the care they provide. This includes staying up-to-date on current nursing practices and taking continuing education courses. Nurses should only perform tasks that they are trained to do.
- **Workload management:** Nurses have a duty to manage their workload to ensure that they can provide safe and effective care. This includes delegating tasks to other staff members and taking breaks when needed.
- **Ethics and the law:** Nurses have a duty to comply with both ethical principles and the law. This can sometimes be a difficult balancing act, but nurses must always put the interests of their patients first.

The Code of Ethics for Nurses is a valuable tool for nurses in making ethical decisions in their practice. By following the principles and provisions of the CEN, nurses can provide the highest quality of care to their patients and promote the nursing profession.



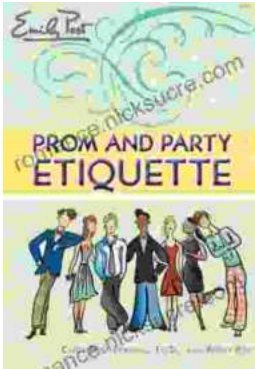
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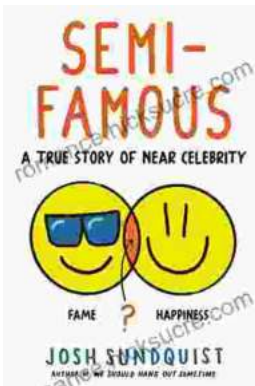
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