



MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Center for Ethics and Human Rights Advisory Board (EAB) is a deliberative body of experts that support the work of the American Nurses Association and provides guidance to the Center Director and policy recommendations to the ANA Board of Directors on issues of current ethical concern to nursing practice, education, research, administration, and other matters of concern relating to ANA's mission and goals. ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights Objectives:



- Promulgate in collaboration with ANA constituents, a body of knowledge, both theoretical and practical, designed to address issues in ethics and human rights at the state, national, and international level;
- Develop and disseminate information about and advocate for public policy to assure that ethics and human rights are addressed in health care; and
- Assure that short and long-range objectives regarding ethics and human rights will be addressed within the Association and expressed to appropriate bodies external to the Association.

THIRTY YEARS



The Center's 1994-1996 Advisory Board (from left to right): Carrie Houser James, MSN, RN, CNA, Rosemary Madl, PhD, RN, CS, NCACII, CNS, Mila Aroskar, EdD, RN, FAAN, Teresa Savage, RN, PhD (c), Janis E. Town, RN, CS, MSN, CCRN, CEN, Cornelia Fleming, RN, MPH, CNA, Gwendolyn E. Johnson, MA, RN, CS and Colleen Scanlon, RN, MS, JD, Director, Center for Ethics and Human Rights

A BIT OF HISTORY

2020 marked the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife. It was also the 30th anniversary of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights (CEHR). In 1990, advancements in health technologies resulted in ethical dilemmas over the appropriateness of use. Nurses raised questions over issues such as genetics and genomics, data privacy, end of life care, justice for "hidden" populations (i.e. IDD, HIV), environmental concerns, fairness in natural disasters, professional ethical obligations, and duties to care. Thirty years later, these issues still exist. The CEHR provides ethical guidance for nurses related to everyday ethical issues such as moral distress, creating an ethical work environment, responding to natural and disasters. Using the Code of Ethics and Nursing Scope and Standards as a foundation, the CEHR responds to many nursing practice issues such as patient use of therapeutic marijuana, protection of human rights, responding to medical aid-in-dying, among many more. The policies of the CEHR are featured in textbooks, publications, print and television media, social media, legal briefs, and health care institutions around the world.

Celebrating the
30th
Anniversary
of the ANA
Center for Ethics
and Human Rights

The Center has been a leader in health care ethics, nursing ethics, bioethics and human rights for 30 years. In collaboration with constituents, the Center has tirelessly provided ethical guidance, both theoretical and practical, at the state, national and international level. At the core of its mission, the Code of Ethics for Nurses drives the Center's responsiveness to the nursing profession and addresses the fundamental duty to improve the quality of care for all persons, patients, families, communities and populations.

- 1990** ANA established the Center in 1990 to help nurses obtain a better understanding of ethical issues in practice in a rapidly changing landscape.
- 1994** Published new ANA position for nurses regarding ethics and assisted suicide.
- 1995** Completed National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant "Managing Genetic Information."
- 2001** Revised Code of Ethics to include nurses' moral duty to self-respect, ethical decision-making.
- 2005** Elevated nurses' ethical obligations during disasters, pandemics and extreme emergencies following September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina (2005).
- 2008** Published updated genetic and genomic core competencies and curricula guidelines.
- 2011** Provided ethical guidance for nurses caring for pregnant women with substance use disorder.
- 2013** Advocated at national level for Navy nurse who refused to force-feed Guantanamo Bay detainees.
- 2014** Provided ethical guidance to nurses during Ebola crisis.
- 2015** Year of Ethics -- Revised Code to extend nurses' obligations to populations and activism in social justice.
- 2016** Opposed capital punishment.
- 2017** Received American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Cornerstone Award.
- 2020** 30th anniversary of the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights.

1990s

2000s

2010s

COVID-19 & NURSING ETHICS

The year 2020 was an unforgettable year ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic which affected the health and lives of millions of people. Nurses around the world responded to this public health crisis with leadership, passion, innovation, expertise, and commitment to the eradication of the virus.

Nurses faced a host of ethical issues as the balance of professional obligations to care for patients weighed against the duty for personal safety emerged early on. Some nurses were working without adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and did not feel safe in their working environment. Many nurses were working in dire conditions with limited resources, including staff, in response to treating a surge of critically ill patients with COVID-19. Nurses expressed concern over rapidly changing policies related to standards of care. An appearance of a "relaxation" of rules created ethical dilemmas around patient safety.

COVID-19 exacerbated and magnified issues of social and racial injustices around the world. Nurses expressed grave concern and support for people and communities of color as the effects of systemic racism highlighted disparate care and health inequity. Nurses were also exposed to a devastating amount of death and dying, but also witnessed the incredible efforts of survival for patients who were discharged home after spending months in the hospital. Tragically, some nurses lost their lives to COVID-19. Nurses suffered from tremendous mental health challenges related to the demands of the workplace, but also witnessing the devastation around the impacts of the pandemic across the globe.

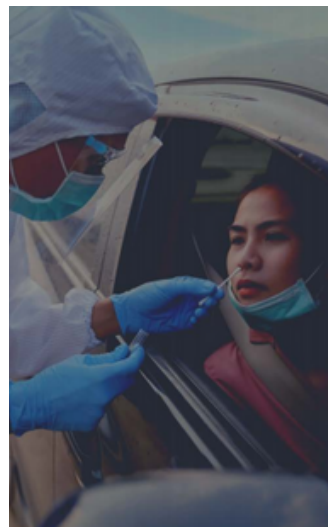
The Center for Ethics and Human Rights provided education for nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic to support efforts for self-care, balancing personal and professional ethical duties, and highlighting nursing's role as the most honest and trusted profession to promote social justice and lead policy decisions based on science. In 2020, nursing's contract with society was critical in leading initiatives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.



ANA
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

NURSES, ETHICS AND THE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC


The American Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (2015) is the nursing profession's non-negotiable ethical practice standard. Provision 2 of the Code states that "the nurse's primary commitment is to the patient." Provision 5




Trust is the cornerstone of the work that nurses do. Nurses are trusted by the public, as reported in Gallup polls, and in turn, must be able to trust that evidence will guide nursing practice and decision-making.

PROVISION 5: SELF-CARE & COVID-19

with Interpretive Statements




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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.

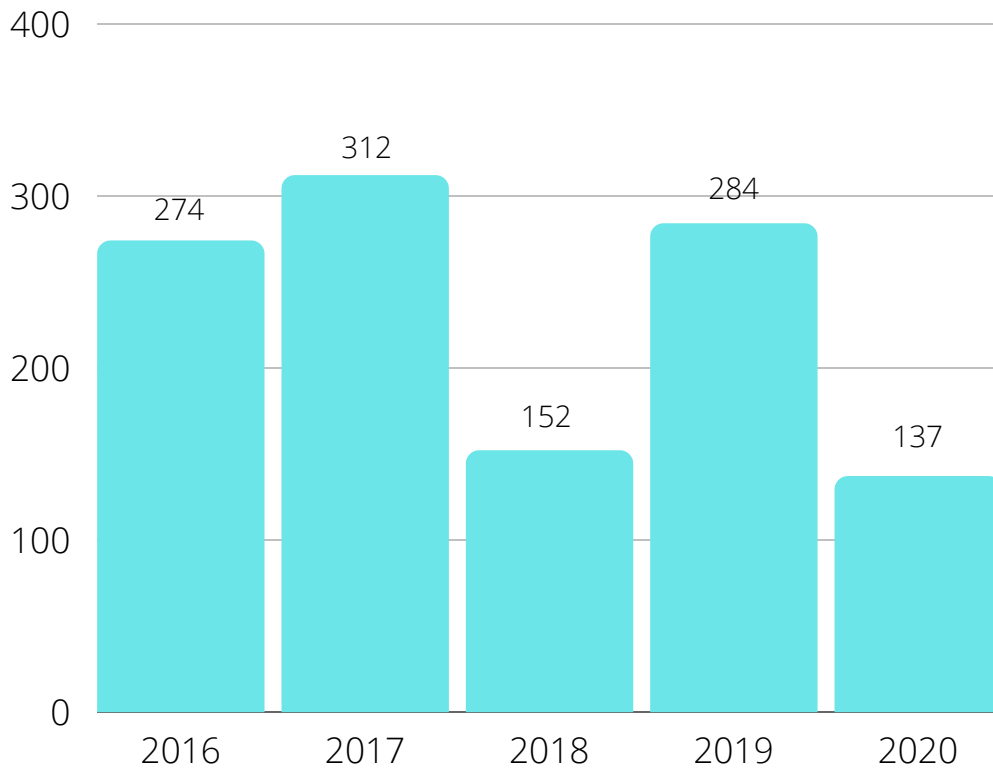


BALANCING PERSONAL SAFETY

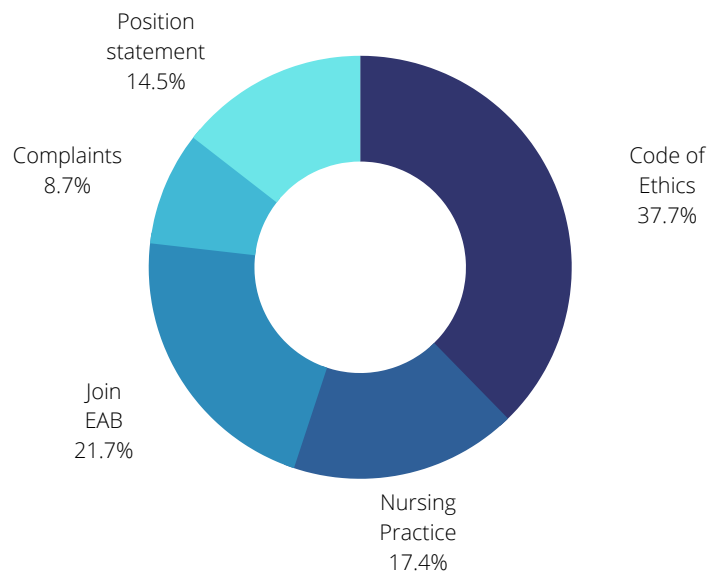
Nurses must decide whether to accept the personal risk to self that exceeds the limits of duty. Any agreement to accept risk must be fully informed and voluntary. Nurses may choose not to accept the personal risk to self and this may have formal and informal consequences.

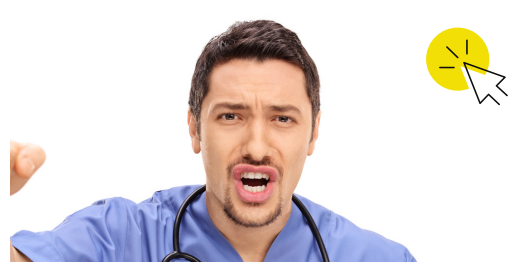
INQUIRIES: THE ETHICS INBOX

The Center for Ethics and Human Rights receives ethics inquiries from nurses, other clinicians, patients, students, consumers, and other members of the public. Each year, the CEHR analyzes the inquiries for a reflection on practice and impact in nursing ethics. The CEHR received over 100 inquiries in 2020.



A majority of inquiries in 2020 were regarding the application of the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. Several nurses contacted the CEHR regarding interest in joining the Ethics Advisory Board or participating in a student internship. Due to COVID-19, a host of nurses raised issues about the ethics of practice during a public health crisis. Lastly, many patients contacted the CEHR regarding a practice complaint and were referred to the appropriate external regulatory agency.



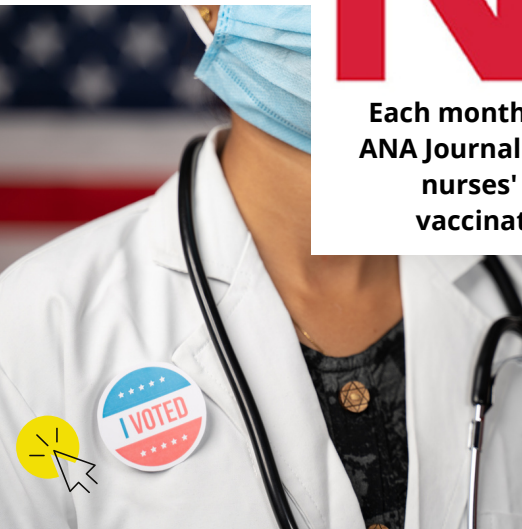


Click on each arrow for access to the article

AMERICAN NURSE

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
ANA
AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

Each month, an "Ethics Inbox" inquiry is published in the ANA Journal American Nurse. This year inquiries included nurses' names on ID badges, decision-making for vaccinations, research ethics, among many more.



NURSING ETHICS IN THE MEDIA

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the role of nursing and provided a wealth of opportunities for the Center of Ethics and Human Rights to share resources with the world. The CEHR was featured on national television and radio programs, and in print, online, and social media platforms.



The Florida Times-Union



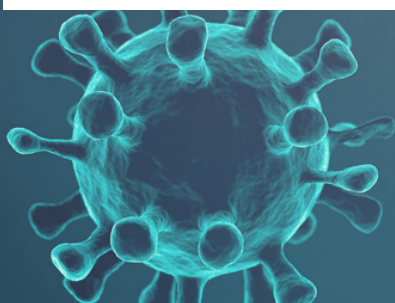
Daily Record JACKSONVILLE

theguardian



ABAJOURNAL

The Washington Post



Code of Ethics for Nurses

with Interpretive
Statements

#KNOWTHECODE

THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR NURSES & SOCIAL MEDIA

The *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* is a commonly viewed open-access document on NursingWorld.org. In 2020, the Code was viewed **307,588** times, an increase of 9% compared to 2019. The CEHR also leverages messaging through the Twitter social media platform. In 2020, @ANAethics had over 270,000 impressions on Twitter. The CEHR shares pertinent education, resources, case studies, and critical updates on nursing ethics around the world. Read the Code of Ethics for Nurses [here](#).



Pinned Tweet

ANA Ethics @ANAethics · Aug 31, 2020

nursingworld.org/get-involved/c... #nurseleaders #ethics

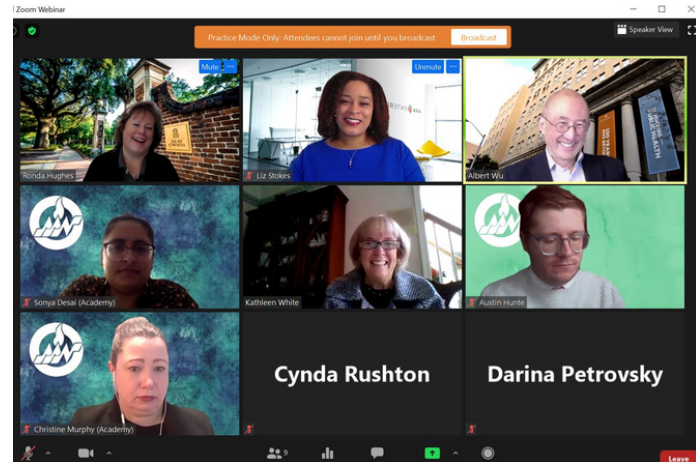
CREATE A
FUTURE
ETHICAL
PRACTICE



PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

The Center for Ethics and Human Rights participated in numerous presentations and publications as the world shifted into a virtual space due to COVID-19. In addition, several members serve on national taskforces such as the Children's Health Task Force: Impact on COVID-19, Food Insecurity, Digital Divide, and Evictions (Teri Chenot) and the Ethics Subcommittee-WI State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (Kathryn Schroeter). Please see highlights of the work of the Ethics Advisory Board below.

- Measuring Ethical Competence: Can Instruments Create Cultures of Excellence? Keynote, California State University, Heather Fitzgerald
- In your capable hands: Ethical practice, bias mitigation, and care for children who rely on chronic mechanical ventilation. Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Heather Fitzgerald
- An interprofessional approach to assessing research ethics capacity in Vietnam: Implications for nursing education. Nursing Education Perspectives, Michele Upvall
- Helping Students Form a Professional Identity. Organization of Associate Degree Nurses Annual Conference, Nelda Godfrey.
- HRO's in Turbulent Times. VISN-8 Veterans Administration, Teri Chenot
- The Professional Identity in Nursing Initiative. Nursing Education Perspectives, Nelda Godfrey
- Self-care as an Ethical Obligation: Leading and Living to Thrive During COVID-19, Anne Arundel Medical Center, Liz Stokes
- The ANA Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements: Ethics in Action: Mask-wearing. New ongoing series in Illinois Voice: ANA/Illinois, Linda Olson
- Shaping History: American Nurses Association Policies on Medical Aid-in-Dying, Carol Carfang Nursing and Healthcare Ethics Conference, Liz Stokes
- The Language We Need: Outcomes from an International Think Tank to Define and Operationalize Professional Identity in Nursing. 2020 National League for Nursing Educational Summit, Nelda Godfrey
- Leading Ethically From Where You Are. ANA webinar, Teri Chenot, Nelda Godfrey, Linda Olson, Michele Upvall
- A nurses' ethical commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Nursing Ethics, Liz Stokes
- Ethical implications of health care amidst the COVID-19 medical emergency. Physicians for Human Rights webinar, Eileen Weber
- Health as a Universal Right and Other Hot Topics in Ethics. Georgia Baptist College of Nursing of Mercer University, Jennifer Bartlett
- Bridging the Gap Between Nursing's Professional Identity and the Inconsistent Brand Image of Nursing. Sigma Theta Tau webinar, Nelda Godfrey
- Ethics in a pandemic. Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, Jennifer Bartlett
- Measuring Ethical Competence: Can Instruments Create Cultures of Excellence? Keynote, California State University, Heather Fitzgerald



TOP: EILEEN WEBER, MIDDLE: LIZ STOKES, BOTTOM: MICHELE UPVALL, LINDA OLSON, NELDA GODFREY, AND TERI CHENOT

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS CONTINUED

The Center for Ethics and Human Rights participated in numerous presentations and publications as the world shifted into a virtual space due to COVID-19. See highlights of the work of the Ethics Advisory Board below.

- The nurse leader's role: A conduit for professional identity formation and sustainability. Nurse Leader, Nelda Godfrey
- In your capable hands: Ethical practice, bias mitigation, and care for children who rely on chronic mechanical ventilation. Journal of Pediatric Nursing, Heather Fitzgerald
- An interprofessional approach to assessing research ethics capacity in Vietnam: Implications for nursing education. Nursing Education Perspectives, Michele Upvall
- Helping Students Form a Professional Identity. Organization of Associate Degree Nurses annual conference, Nelda Godfrey
- The Ethics of Caring in Artificial Intelligence. Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Liz Stokes
- HRO's in Turbulent Times. VISN-8 Veterans Administration, Teri Chenot
- The Professional Identity in Nursing Initiative. Nursing Education Perspectives, Nelda Godfrey
- The ANA Code of Ethics with Interpretive Statements: Ethics in Action: Mask-wearing. New ongoing series in Illinois Voice: ANA/Illinois, Linda Olson
- Global Ethics in Nursing and Challenges for Professional Ethics. Finnish Doctoral Education Network in Nursing Science conference, Nelda Godfrey
- Optimizing Ethical Work Environments Throughout Healthcare in a Pandemic. American Academy of Nursing Transforming Health Driving Policy Conference, Liz Stokes
- Professional Identity Formation: Beyond Competencies. AACN Fall Faculty Forum, Nelda Godfrey
- Ethics, Policy & Health Care Advocacy. Marquette University College of Nursing, Kathryn Schroeter
- The Language We Need: Outcomes from an International Think Tank to Define and Operationalize Professional Identity in Nursing. 2020 National League for Nursing Educational Summit, Nelda Godfrey
- Nursing Ethics in COVID19. District of Columbia Regional Bioethics Consortium, Liz Stokes
- Leading Ethically From Where You Are. ANA webinar, Teri Chenot, Nelda Godfrey, Linda Olson, Michele Upvall
- COVID-19 as a Catalyst: Is it Threatening or Deepening Ethical Practice? Rady Children's Hospital, Heather Fitzgerald
- Envisioning an Ethical Climate in Nursing Education Programs, Online Journal of Issues in Nursing, Linda Olsen
- Helping Students Form a Professional Identity. National Student Nurses Association November Faculty Forum, Nelda Godfrey
- Nursing in a pandemic. Minnesota Nurses Association, Eileen Weber
- Understanding Interprofessional Professional Identity: Commonalities and Connections among Nursing, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy. NEXUS: National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education Virtual Conference, Nelda Godfrey
- Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Nursing: Ethics of Caring as a Guide to Dividing Tasks Between AI and Humans. Nursing Philosophy, Liz Stokes
- Relational Ethics, University of Kansas School of Nursing, Nelda Godfrey
- Nurse Well-Being: A Concept Analysis, American Academy of Nursing Policy Forum, Teri Chenot
- Leveraging clinical judgment to foster professional role formation and agency. Nursing Education Speaker Series, Wolters Kluwer and the National League for Nursing, Jennifer Bartlett
- A think tank in action: Building new knowledge about professional identity in nursing, Journal of Professional Nursing, Nelda Godfrey

