

# Standards of Professional Performance for Public Health Nursing

## Standard 7. Ethics

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The public health nurse practices ethically.

### COMPETENCIES

The public health nurse:

- Applies *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements* (ANA, 2001) to guide public health nursing practice.
- Adheres to the *Principles of Ethical Practice of Public Health* (Public Health Leadership Society, 2002) and principles of social justice to achieve the greater good of the whole.
- Delivers programs and services in a manner that preserves, promotes, and protects the autonomy, beliefs, dignity, values, and rights of individuals, communities, and populations.
- Applies ethical standards in advocating for the health of populations and social policy.
- Maintains individual confidentiality within legal and regulatory parameters.
- Assists populations, communities, and individuals in developing skills in self-determination and informed decision-making.
- Maintains professional relationships and boundaries with individuals, families, and groups within the population while delivering public health services and programs.
- Demonstrates a commitment to resolving social and environmental issues and barriers to healthy living conditions that contribute to health inequities.
- Contributes to resolving ethical issues involving colleagues, community groups, systems, and other stakeholders.

- Reports activities that are inconsistent with accepted standards of practice, illegal, unethical, or reflective of impaired practice.
- Challenges public health practices that jeopardize safety or quality improvement.

### **ADDITIONAL COMPETENCIES FOR THE ADVANCED PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE**

The advanced public health nurse:

- Informs populations and communities of the benefits, outcomes, and risks of policies, programs, and services.
- Informs administrators, stakeholders, and/or other providers of the benefits, outcomes, and risks of policies, programs, and services, and related decisions that affect the delivery of health-related services.
- Partners with multisector teams to address ethical benefits, outcomes, and risks of policies, programs, and services.
- Promotes solutions to social and environmental issues and barriers to healthy living conditions.