

# **PROFESSIONAL ISSUES IN CLINICAL PRACTICE**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
1.1 Professional Conduct.....	3
1.2 Unsatisfactory professional conduct .....	3
1.3 Professional misconduct .....	3
1.4 Professional Boundaries .....	4
1.5 Conditions of nursing practice .....	4
2.1 Unsatisfactory professional conduct .....	4
2.2 Violation of professional boundaries .....	4
2.3 Condition placed on nursing practice .....	5
3 Breach of conduct .....	5
4. Breach of ethics.....	6
5. Breach of Standards for the Registered Nurse Division 1 .....	7
Conclusion .....	8
Reference List .....	9

## **Introduction**

Nursing practice can be considered as social care support and at the same time there are some regulations. It is important to maintain professional ethics as well as a better procedure that professionals should not make misconduct with patients. On the other hand, it is also important that users are getting the proper services. Violating such regulations, a respective professional may get punishment or debarred from the same practice. In the referred case study the same aspect has been reflected. The problem statement of the study is to analyze some code of conducts and ethics that respective nurse has to maintain.

### **1.1 Professional Conduct**

Professional conduct in nursing is a set of regulations that a professional has to follow. It includes the guidelines on activities as well as responsibilities along with the standard of resources that a respective nurse should possess (Clark, 2017).

### **1.2 Unsatisfactory professional conduct**

Unsatisfactory professional conduct is to manage nursing activities without following the regulations and at the same time unethical practices those are not supported by code ethics or practice (Carr, 2016).

### **1.3 Professional misconduct**

Professional misconduct is to make communication in a way that service users get harmed or may claim for a solution. In nursing care, a professional should not harm cultural respect or communication issues in terms of providing a service (Gallagher & Haworth, 2015). **As per the Nursing and Midwifery Board Australia (NMBA), 7 core standards or codes have been set up for avoiding professional misconduct. Amongst the core standards, codes of core importance are that a midwife or a nurse must value diversity if people, take part in informed decision making, respect others and maintain ethical management of information (Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au, 2017).**

## **1.4 Professional Boundaries**

It is the gap or communication standard in terms of a nurse's authority and patient's vulnerability. At a glance, it signifies the respect and trust while making a communication in health and social care practice (Langendyk *et al.* 2015). **As per the NMBA standards, professional boundaries include maintaining confidentiality of information, care relationship, which helps to provide quality care. On another hand, gifts and financial returns from outsiders or care seekers, dual relationship with care seekers or any other person must be avoided (Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au, 2017).**

## **1.5 Conditions of nursing practice**

There are some specific situations as well as referred activities prescribed by Code of Conduct or ethics. If respective situations get harmful for professional as well as service user, there should be some steps on solutions. It may be regarding environment or care support (Gallagher & Haworth, 2015).

## **2.1 Unsatisfactory professional conduct**

Professional misconduct in Miss Maria Santos case is that she has started working in the workplace without having sufficient knowledge in the same field. If a respective professional in nursing has not possessed knowledge, there will be error of medication and other unethical operations that the respective nurse has followed (Clark, 2017).

## **2.2 Violation of professional boundaries**

There are two contexts of violating professional boundary in the referred case, In the first glance, Miss Maria has hidden the fact that she does not have any experience or enough knowledge on nursing practice. She might have used fake certificates or information while joining the hospital. On the other hand, she has failed to make communication with the services users for several years. It is because she is unaware of the ethics as well as regulations of nursing (Våga, Moland & Blystad, 2016). **As per the continuum of professional behavior set by NMBA, disinterested neglectful, Therapeutic relationship, Boundary violations are interrelated.**

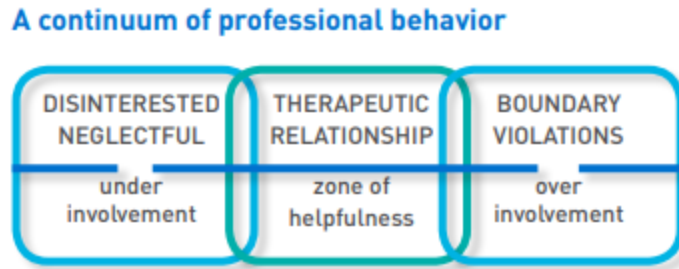


Figure 1: Continuum of professional behavior by NMBA

(Source: [Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au), 2017)

Zone of helpfulness is at the centre of the continuum where most of the negotiations occur. However, at either end of this continuum, violations can occur due to over and under involvement ([Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au), 2017).

### 2.3 Condition placed on nursing practice

Conditions or situations should be analyzed as per decision making expertise. For example, if a nurse or service user is facing issues on environment or unavailability medicine or other resources, there should be certain steps to overcome the scenario. In that case it is important that the respective nurse have enough knowledge as well as expertise on understanding situations. In the referred case, the nurse is not aware of such conditions and following the same she has failed to make decisions as well as an efficient care support (Langendyk *et al.* 2015).

### 3 Breach of conduct

It is the first standard or code statement that a respective nurse should provide a service in a competent manner. In that concern, it is important that the respective professional should have adequate knowledge in the same field. On the other hand, it is also important that a continuous improvement on nursing is getting well maintained. In the respective case, it is possible that Miss Santos is not aware all of these standards and she has breached the conduct of nursing practice in a safe and competent manner. As per code of conduct and ethics nurses should make engagement in regular ongoing event for professional development and knowledge improvement. In this case it has been found that, the respective nurse has not maintained all of these ethical standards and in that concern code of conduct has been violated.

On the other hand, nurses should inform supervisors or respective heads regarding limitations or lack of resources in this case both of the conducts are breached. A nurse having lack of knowledge may provide wrong medication or other irregular practice. In that concern, it is important to have sufficient knowledge (Levati, 2014).

As per NMBA standards, a nurse must take part in informed decision making by notifying each and every instances to the higher authority as well as the care seeker or family members (Nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au, 2017). Instead of inadequate knowledge, the respective nurse is serving for several years. This code of conduct has also been breached by the nurse. Therefore, it can be said that there are countless aspects of conduct breach. At a glance, it can be said that if a respective professional does not possess adequate knowledge on nursing practice, it will be unethical to serve in a health unit. Initially, it is against the conduct of nursing practice and at the same time there is a possibility to harm others. If a respective professional is using fake aspects of expertise, there are certain reasons to make penalty or punishment. On the other hand, it is also a responsibility of a respective hospital or nursing care authority to check all of the evidences that a respective nurse is eligible to maintain regular responsibilities as specified by code conduct an ethics. Having not done the same, there will be a charge against the hospital authority also. In the respective case both of the conducts have misled and it is valid to make steps against both and not only against the respective nurse.

#### **4. Breach of ethics**

There are some Codes of ethics set for health care professionals as well as nurses and by not following the same, there is a possibility of punishment as well as cancelation of registration. Some of the codes of ethics those are breached in this case include:

Value quality nursing care: value quality nursing care is the assurance that a respective nurse is covering all of the ethical practices along with efficient communication efforts that's service users are getting better support. In the respective case, the nurse is unaware of nursing practice and without having the same; she has not maintained a value and quality support to the patients. It is possible that without having such resources she has misguided the patients with wrong medication as well as prescription of hospitability efforts (Mallari, Grace & Joseph, 2016).

Value quality decision making: Improved decision making needs sufficient knowledge in a respective field along with valued experience. Miss Santos has not possessed the both even after having engaged in a hospital. Value quality decision making tends to establish the fact that a respective nurse is making decisions having adequate knowledge in the same field along with ability to make the right decisions. Even the nurse has not possessed all of these resources; she has served for several years. This code of ethics has been violated in the same way (Sanner-Stiehr & Ward-Smith, 2017).

There are some other aspects of breach of ethics. If a respective professional is not providing optimum care for a patient in terms of having knowledge, there will be a breach of conduct. In the respective case the breach has been made between hospital authority and the nurse. If the nurse has hidden the actual scenario of background or expertise, the hospital authority may not allow in the same practice. Besides that, without having enough knowledge and expertise, the nurse has also violated regular norms including continuous improvement process and other communication glitches. All of these aspects are considered to be a regular breach of conduct in a workplace. Besides that, in the referred case, the respective hospital has also made breach as they have not examined or verify the capacity or knowledge of a professional before assigning responsibility. In that concern, the breach of ethics has also been followed by the hospital authority. In this concern, punishment or penalty should be applicable on both including the nursing professional. However, it has not been specified clearly that the terms of continuous improvement or other are not maintained by the nurse, but violation of ethics is evident in the case.

### **5. Breach of Standards for the Registered Nurse Division 1**

In the respective case there are several standards of registered nurses are violated and some of those are as follow:

Critical and analytical nursing practice: A critical understanding in nursing care includes adequate knowledge as well as decision making capacity. Practically, without having the same, a respective nurse cannot analyze a respective issue in resolving manner. Besides that there will be possibilities of wrong medication. The respective nurse has not met this standard and also ha violated the same without having critical understanding of clinical practices (Gallagher & Haworth, 2015).

Maintaining capability for practice: In terms of capabilities, a respective nurse should have knowledge and understanding. This resource is important for decision making as well as other aspects of nursing care support. However, it is not valid to work in a health care practice without having such capability decision making resources. A respective workplace faces countless issues and a nurse has to manage all these by maintaining capability for practices. This standard has also been violated by Miss Santos.

6. In order to make solutions to such cases, the initial need is to maintain monitoring and services on health care points. It may possible that a respective nurse has academic resources in nursing or clinical practice, but there is an inadequacy of regular improvement (Blair *et al.* 2016). It is the responsibility of nurses to explore critical situations and adopting some decision making strategies as per requirements. It will be better to check such improving measures at an interval terms. Such surveillance will maintain the improving standards as well as gaps can be resolved. Finally, if a respective nurse is not getting all of those ethical or responsible practices, there will be an option to cancel registration or make punishment. Moreover, it is an implementation on strict regulations of nursing practices as well as surveillance that such breach of conducts can be reduced (Gallagher & Haworth, 2015). As per standard, a respective nurse should follow all of the specified norms otherwise there will be a breach of referred standard. However, all these standards are not nly legislation, but at the same time, it is important to maintain such standards in order to assure a quality service. Practically, it is important for a professional to manage all of the standards to manage a better and efficient support.

## **Conclusion**

Therefore, it can be said that there are many cases available that nursing care supports are beached or violated and some of those are hidden or not explored. In that concern, it is important to manage surveillance on the care industry along with that nurses should maintain all of their responsibilities for a better support.



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