

POSITION STATEMENT ON ETHICS & HUMAN RIGHTS

RESPECT

Respect for the inherent worth, dignity, and human rights of every patient is a fundamental principle that underlies all of our healthcare practices. As a fundamental practice, healthcare organizations and healthcare providers must consider the needs and values of all people in all professional and personal contexts.

ADVOCACY

Every healthcare organization and healthcare provider have an inherent responsibility to advocate for the human rights of all patients, colleagues, and communities. Every healthcare organization must advocate for ethical and just practices by creating and sustaining environments that support accepted standards of professional practice.

RESPONSIBILITY

Every individual must make responsible decisions, take responsible actions and hold themselves accountable for their own practices. True responsibility goes beyond the rhetoric of universal human rights to include attention to duties, social justice, and interdependence. It is the responsibility of every individual to refuse to practice in ways that would negatively impact others.

COLLABORATION

Healthcare organizations and healthcare providers hold a great responsibility of collaborating with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs. All healthcare professionals must collaborate to create moral communities that promote, protect, and sustain ethical practices.

PROMOTION

Healthcare organizations and healthcare providers must look beyond the immediate environment to the wider community for opportunities to contribute or participate in efforts to promote health and human rights. Political activism at local, national, and international levels fulfill fundamental responsibilities to promote health, prevent disease, and alleviate suffering. Challenging discussions of ethical principles and human rights among colleagues followed by political action to clarify and promote health policy that increases access to and equality of care is a fundamental ethical practice.