SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

Fact Sheet

Code for Nurses and Midwives (2018)

Introduction

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) regulates the practice of nursing & midwifery as set out in the Nurses & Midwives Act (Cap 209) (2012 Revised edition). SNB publishes various regulatory standards and guidelines to supplement the requirements of the Nurses and Midwives Act (Cap 209) (2012 Revised edition) and to guide nurses and midwives.

What is the Code for Nurses and Midwives?

The Code for Nurse and Midwives (2018) ("The Code") is a set of guiding principles that set out the professional conduct, ethical values and practice standards that every nurse and midwife registered with SNB in Singapore must act upon and uphold.

The Code integrates into one document and replaces the Singapore Nursing Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (1999), Code of Practice for Midwives (2001) and Standards of Practice for Nurses and Midwives (2011).

With this integration, the "Scope of Practice" section from the Code of Practice for Midwives (2001) is incorporated into the revised Scope of Professional Nursing & Midwifery Practice (2018). Similarly, the section on "Responsibilities of a Midwife" has been reviewed and updated as Core Competencies & Generic Skills of Registered Midwife (2018).

The Code was developed following reviews and consultations by the Ethics Committee members, nursing representatives from various clinical settings, nursing students, nurses, nursing leaders and with input from an Ethics Expert.

The Code reflects current nursing and midwifery practices nationally and internationally. In view of the current and evolving social media environment, guidelines on professional boundaries and the use of social media have been incorporated into The Code.

Why are the Singapore Nursing Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (1999), Code of Practice for Midwives (2001) and Standards of Practice for Nurses and Midwives (2011) replaced with the Code for Nurses and Midwives (2018)?

Ethical principles are deeply embedded in nursing practice and professional conduct. With the integration of these documents, all aspects of expected professional conduct, ethical values and practice standards can now be accessed in one document.

What are the key features of The Code?

All 10 "Value statements" from the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (1999) and 7 "Standards" from Standards of Nursing Practice (2011) are incorporated as 4 "Provisions", 10 "Principles", and 52 "Practice Statements''.
Within each provision there are principles and accompanying practice statements.
The Glossary provides meaning and understanding of the various key terms used in the Code.

When does The Code take effect?

The Code will take effect for all nurses and midwives in Singapore on 2 April 2018. Singapore Nursing Board will communicate with nurses/midwives and stakeholders on The Code before it takes effect. During the transition period from publication & announcement to implementation on 2 April 2018, the Singapore Nursing Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct (1999), Code of Practice for Midwives (2001) and Standards of Practice for Nurses and Midwives (2011) remain effective.

What do I need to do when The Code takes effect?

You need to be familiarised with The Code and incorporate them into your nursing and/or midwifery practice. During the transition period from publication to 2 April 2018, you are encouraged to reflect on your practice using The Code.

My employer has a Code of Conduct, do I have to comply with SNB's Code for Nurses and Midwives (2018)?

Yes, all nurses/midwives registered with the Singapore Nursing Board must comply with the Code for Nurses and Midwives.
Most organisations have their own policies on conduct which the employees must comply with during their employment with the organisation.

My practice does not involve direct clinical care, does The Code apply to me?

Yes, the Code apply to all nurses/midwives practising in varied settings, clinical or non-clinical, including volunteer work. Areas of practice include work in clinical care, clinical leadership, governance bodies, education, research, administration, management, advisory roles, regulation or policy development. The Code apply to settings where nurses/midwives engage in the above-mentioned activities via face-to-face, publications, online or other electronic means.

For more information
Visit SNB's website at www.snb.gov.sg or email SNB at SNB_Contact@snb.gov.sg for further enquiries.