The participant in ANA/C RN Day will be able to discuss:

- The Code of Ethics for Nurses, ANA, policy statement
- The Code of Ethics for Nurses as a “legal standard”
- How ethics relates to nurses, obligation to practice ethically, professional conduct, community involvement, personally.
- Issues and ethical implications include: health care reform, nondiscrimination, promoting healthy work environment, preventing workplace violence, preventing bullying, whistle blowing, and more.
- Ethics and policy examples
- Ethics and legislation examples
- 4 provisions of the code that more specifically address policy and nurse's responsibilities.
- Nurse's responsibilities to clarify own values, speak up, collaborate, respect, protect rights, promote social justice, advocacy, be involved in health policy
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 2015

The Year of Ethics Commences with First Revision of Code since 2001
ANA Plans Ethics Educational Activities for 2015 to Highlight Importance in Nursing Practice

SILVER SPRING, MD – Making decisions based on a sound foundation of ethics is an essential part of nursing practice in all specialties and settings. In recognition of the impact ethical practice has on patient safety and the quality of care, the American Nurses Association (ANA) has designated 2015 as the "Year of Ethics" highlighted by the release of a revised code of ethics for the profession.

"The public places its faith in nurses to practice ethically. A patient’s health, autonomy and even life or death, can be affected by a nurse’s decisions and actions," said ANA President Pamela F. Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN. "ANA believes it’s important that all nurses practice at the highest ethical level...[plan] full range of activities to inform and support nurses to achieve that goal in a stressful and ever-changing health care environment."

Policy Statement: "The American Nurses Association’s ... Code for Nurses with Interpretive Statements ... explicates the goals, values and ethical precepts that direct the profession of nursing. The ANA believes the Code for Nurses is nonnegotiable and that each nurse has an obligation to uphold and adhere to the code of ethics." (nursingworld.org)

Nurses need to be familiar with the Code of Ethics for Nurses, its provisions, and learn how it can be applied in their professional (and personal) lives.
A bit of recent history: In 2014, ANA participated as a strategic partner in the National Nursing Ethics Summit convened by the Johns Hopkins University’s Berman Institute of Bioethics and School of Nursing to strengthen ethics in the profession. The summit resulted in the Blueprint for 21st Century Nursing Ethics: Report of the National Nursing Summit. Summit leaders are encouraging individuals and organizations to adopt and implement the ethics blueprint to “create and support ethically principled, healthy, sustainable work environments; and contribute to the best possible patient, family and community outcomes.”

Remember:

*The Code of Ethics for Nurses is recognized as a “legal standard”; it is “integrated into nurse practice acts”, and is “used as evidence in competency hearings, disciplinary proceedings and malpractice cases”.

Major changes in the new Code, for the nurse are in the areas of:

* “…research and evidence-informed practice, care coordination and advocacy, interdisciplinary collaboration, ethical practice environments, moral distress, incivility, bullying, end of life care and social media and genetics
* Work environment is addressed, including responsibility of Administrative nurses to maintain ethical environments and support nurse autonomy; recognizing conscientious objection; whistle blowing without reprisal and addressing issues of incivility and bullying
Changes in the Code for the nursing profession are in the areas of:

"the nurse's voice in social justice and health policy", nursing as a global united profession, and international collaboration to address: Climate destabilization, violence and terrorism, emerging epidemics, and other global threats to health.

2 new "radical declarations" in the Code:

* Provision 8: which states that "Healthcare is a universal right"

* Provision 1.4: Nurses may not act with intent to end life even though such actions may be motivated by compassion, respect for autonomy or quality of life considerations."

This is an "inclusive code", for all nurses in all roles in all settings, i.e., staff nurses, nurse directors, managers, educators, APRNs, researchers, regulators, students, unemployed RNs, Nurse volunteers in disasters, military nurses in any country.
By following the Code of Ethics for Nurses we:

• Maintain the public's trust.
• Use the Code as a basis for the nurse’s social contract with society.
• Consider ethical elements and implications for nurses at all levels of health care delivery and policy.
• Apply the code on a personal level, in the work setting, in everyday conduct and in the broader community - local, state, national and/or international.
• Recognize ethical aspects of issues including: health care reform, nondiscrimination, preventing workplace violence, whistle blowing, preventing bullying.

Ethical behavior is not the display of one’s moral rectitude in times of crises. It is the day-by-day expression of one’s commitment to other persons and the ways in which human beings relate to one another in their daily interactions.”

~Myra Levine, 1977

American Nurses Association
Code of Ethics for Nurses 2015

The 9 Provisions

Provision 1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for inherent dignity, worth and unique attributes of every person.

Provision 2. The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family group, community or population.

Provision 3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

Provision 4. The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

Provision 5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

Provision 6. The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work settings and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

Provision 7. The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

Provision 8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

Provision 9. The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.
Although the relation of ethics to policy is inherent in the entire Code of Ethics for Nurses, it is more specifically addressed in Provisions 3, 7, 8 and 9 of the Code. (ANA, 2015)

Provision 3: “The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.”

*With the current emphasis on workplace safety, this provision notes the Nurse’s responsibility in policy and decision making, at work and for the public.*

“It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.”

~Albert Einstein
Provision 7: "The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy".

*This addresses the nurse’s responsibility getting involved in advocacy, in promotion of professional standards and in development of health policy.

Provision 8: "The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.... Healthcare is a universal right".

*This states the belief that “Health Is a Universal Right”; that the nurse is to be involved in collaborative efforts for "Health, Human Rights, and Health Diplomacy”.

*...the nurse has the “Obligation to Advance Health and Human Rights and Reduce Disparities”

*...and the nurse has a responsibility to collaborate “… for Human Rights in Complex, Extreme, or Extraordinary Practice Settings”.

Provision 9: "The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy”.

*This provision deals with “Articulation and Assertion of Values”; “Integrity of the Profession”; “Integrating Social Justice in Nursing and Health Policy.”
In her article about Ethical Challenges in the Era of Health Care Reform, Vicki Lachman (2012) states:

"...nurses and nursing associations have the ethical challenge to stand firm for patients and ensure the long-term sustainability of our health care system. Nurses need to advocate for the people without a voice — those discriminated against because of health status and lack of insurance.... The principle of autonomy was never meant to abandon the moral relationships that continue to be necessary for the human good...."

~Aroskar, (in Cszerwinski)

“I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do.”

~Helen Keller
“What you do, what you say, what you are, may help others in ways you never know. Your influence, like your shadow, extends where you may never be.”

~Anonymous