

ETHICS STANDARD

Nurses: Conflict of Interest

Introduction

A conflict of interest occurs when a **nurse's** personal, business, commercial, political, academic or financial interests, or the interests of the nurse's family or friends, interfere with the nurse's professional responsibilities or a **client's** best interests.

Standards

1. Nurses identify and seek to avoid actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
2. Nurses avoid any behaviours including promoting private or business interests that place their personal gain ahead of their professional responsibilities.
3. Nurses handle all types of conflict of interest by identifying the problem, discussing it with the appropriate people and managing it ethically.
4. Nurses fully and accurately disclose, to the appropriate persons, any relationships, affiliations, financial interests or personal interests that may create a conflict of interest.
5. Nurses follow BCCNM's Bylaws when they advertise or promote professional services or products.
6. Nurses recognise the potential for gifts of any value to affect objectivity and use professional judgment when considering their acceptance.
7. Nurses only accept funds from **commercial sources** in the form of an **unrestricted grant** paid to the organization sponsoring the professional activity.

Glossary

Client: individual, family, group, population or entire community receiving nursing care or services from a nurse.

Commercial source: business or organization whose primary purpose is the for-profit sale of goods or services.

Nurses: licensed practical nurses, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, registered psychiatric nurses, licensed graduate nurses, employed student nurses, and employed student psychiatric nurses.

Unrestricted grant: funding given without constraints or conditions.

Revision history

Version #	Approved by board	Bylaw in-force	Description
1.0	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Initial publication

Effective April 1, 2026, this ethics standard, and any amendments to it, is made a bylaw under the authority of the *Health Professions and Occupations Act, B.C.*
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