



## *Jubilee Mission College of Nursing Following The NRSI Guidelines for Research*

### **CODE OF ETHICS OF RESEARCH**

#### **Introduction**

These are professional guidelines that nurse researchers must uphold for the proper conduct of a research that contribute for the sustenance and development of nursing as a profession. Nursing Research Society of India (hereafter called as NRSI) being the registered nursing research organization in India for nurse researchers takes it as their professional responsibility to set guidelines for nursing research in India. Though NRSI set the guidelines for the proper conduct of research by nurses, but these are not just our guidelines. They are the guidelines that patients and members of the public tell us what they expect from nurse researchers. They are the guidelines shown every day by good nurses and midwives across India. Nurses who are doing research is called as Nurse.

Nurses and midwives can use it to promote safe and effective nursing practice in their place of work. Employer organizations should support their staff in upholding the guidelines in their Professional Code as part of conducting genuine researches that promote the quality and safety of participants involved.

#### **1. Practice Ethical code of conduct**

##### **1.1 Informed consent**

When Nurses conduct research in person or via electronic transmission or other forms of communication, they obtain the informed consent of the individual or individuals using language that is reasonably understandable to that person or persons except when



Principal  
Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
Thriassur  
Date: 06/04/2022  
Angelab



conducting such activities without consent is mandated by law or governmental regulation or as otherwise provided in this Ethics Code.

1.1.1. For persons who are legally incapable of giving informed consent, Nurses nevertheless

1. Provide an appropriate explanation,
2. seek the individual's assent,
3. Consider such persons' preferences and best interests, and
4. Obtain appropriate permission from a legally authorized person, if such substitute consent is permitted or required by law and in such situation, obtain an audiovisual recording of such assent or informed permission.

**1.2. Nurses should appropriately document written or oral consent, permission, and assent in the prescribed format.**

**1.3. Nurses who conduct research when obtaining informed consent, for all types of research should inform participants about :**

1. Purpose of the research, expected duration and procedures.
2. Participants' rights to decline to participate and to withdraw from the research once it has started, as well as the anticipated consequences of doing so.
3. Reasonably foreseeable factors that may influence their willingness to participate, such as potential risks, discomfort or adverse effects.
4. Any prospective research benefits.
5. Limits of confidentiality, such as data coding, disposal, sharing and archiving, and when confidentiality must be broken.
6. Incentives for participation.
7. Whom participants can contact with questions about research and research participants rights.
8. Cover the likelihood, magnitude and duration of harm or benefit of participation, emphasizing that their involvement is voluntary and discussing treatment alternatives, if relevant to the research.



Angelab  
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Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
THRISSUR - 680 005



9.Keep in mind that the Ethics Code includes specific mandates for researchers who conduct experimental treatment research. Specifically, they must inform individuals about the experimental nature of the treatment, services that will or will not be available to the control groups, how participants will be assigned to treatments and control groups, available treatment alternatives and compensation or monetary costs of participation and the means by which assignment to treatment and control groups will be made; available treatment alternatives if an individual does not wish to participate in the research or wishes to withdraw once a study has begun; and compensation for or monetary costs of participating including, if appropriate, whether reimbursement from the participant or a third-party.

#### **1.4.Informed Consent for Recording Voices and Images in Research**

NR should obtain informed consent from research participants prior to recording their voices or images for data collection unless (1) the research consists solely of naturalistic observations in public places, and it is not anticipated that the recording will be used in a manner that could cause personal identification or harm, or (2) the research design includes deception, and consent for the use of the recording is obtained during debriefing

#### **1.5.Patient, Student, and Subordinate as Research Participants**

- 1.When NRs conduct research with clients/ patients, students, or subordinates as participants, they take steps to protect the prospective participants from adverse consequences of declining or withdrawing from participation.
- 2.When research participation is a course requirement or an opportunity for extra credit, the prospective participant is given the choice of equitable alternative activities.

#### **1.6.Dispensing With Informed Consent for Research**

Nurses may dispense with informed consent only

1. where research would not reasonably be assumed to create distress or harm and involves
  - A.the study of normal educational practices, curricula, or classroom management methods conducted in educational settings;
  - B.only anonymous questionnaires, naturalistic observations, or archival research for which



*Angelab*  
*06/01/2022*  
Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
THRISSUR - 680 005



## JUBILEE MISSION COLLEGE OF NURSING

JUBILEE MISSION HOSPITAL TRUST – ARCHDIOCESE OF THRISSUR, Reg No: 167/IV/01

Jubilee Gardens, P.B. No.737 Jubilee Mission P.O Thrissur East -680 005 Kerala S. India

Ph: 0487-2426709, 90 48 28 50 00, Fax: 0091-0487-2422157, E-mail:jmconctr@gmail.com

disclosure of responses would not place participants at risk of criminal or civil liability or damage their financial standing, employability, or reputation, and confidentiality is protected; or

C. the study of factors related to job or organization effectiveness conducted in organizational settings for which there is no risk to participants employ ability, and confidentiality is protected or

2. where otherwise permitted by law or institutional regulations.

### 1.7. Offering Inducements for Research Participation

1. NR should make reasonable efforts to avoid offering excessive or inappropriate financial or other inducements for research participation when such inducements are likely to coerce participation.

2. When offering professional services as an inducement for research participation, Nurses clarify the nature of the services, as well as the risks, obligations, and limitations.

### 1.8. Humane Care in Research

Experimentation and research with human participants made tremendous contributions to improving peoples lives. However, there have also been several reports of unethical research practices and abuses of human participants in research. It was in response to reports of such abuses, ICMR had come up with guidelines. The following are important for NRs also.

A. Respect for persons — individuals should be treated as independent agents, and individuals with diminished independence are entitled to special protections. Nurses should show respect for life.

B. Beneficence — individuals should not be exposed to harm or unnecessary risk and any benefits should be maximized.

C. Justice — individuals should be exposed to fair and equitable procedures, and fair distribution of costs and benefits.

### 1.9. Deception in Research

NR should not conduct a study involving deception unless they have determined that the use of deceptive techniques that is justified by the study's significant contribution to



Angela  
06/04/2022  
Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
THRISSUR - 680 005



science, education or applied value and if no other alternative procedures are available.  
 A.NR should not deceive prospective participants about research that is reasonably expected to cause physical pain or severe emotional distress.

B.NR should explain any deception that is an integral feature of the design and conduct of an experiment to participants as early as is feasible, preferably not later than at the conclusion of the data collection, and permit participants to withdraw their data.

**1.9.1.Institutional Approval**

When institutional approval is required, NR should provide accurate information about their research proposals and obtain approval prior to conducting the research. They conduct the research in accordance with the approved research protocol.

**1.9.2.Conflicts between Ethics and Law, Regulations, or Other Governing Legal Authority and organizational demands.**

If Nurses ethical responsibilities conflict with law, regulations or other governing legal authority, and organizational demands, they should clarify the nature of the conflict, make known their commitment to the Ethics Code and take reasonable steps to resolve the conflict consistent with the General Principles and Ethical Standards of the Ethics Code. Under no circumstances, these guidelines be used to justify or defend violating human rights.

**1.9.3.Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations**

When NRs believe that there may have been an ethical violation by another NR, they should attempt to resolve the issue by bringing it to the attention of that individual, if an informal resolution appears appropriate and the intervention does not violate any confidentiality rights of the participants involved.

**1.9.3.Reporting Ethical Violations**

If an apparent ethical violation has substantially harmed or is likely to substantially harm a person or organization and is not appropriate for informal resolution, NRs take further action appropriate to the situation. Such action might include referral to state or national committees on professional ethics, to state licensing boards or to the appropriate institutional authorities.



*Angeles*  
*06/04/2022*  
 PRINCIPAL  
 Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
 THRISSUR - 680 005





#### **1.9.4.Co-operating with Ethics Committees**

NR should cooperate in ethics investigations, proceedings and resulting requirements of the organization or association to which they belong. Failure to cooperate itself is an ethics violation.

#### **1.9.5.Improper Complaints**

NR should not file or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are made with reckless disregard for or willful ignorance of facts that would disprove the allegation.

#### **1.9.6.Unfair Discrimination against Complainants and Respondents.**

NR should not deny persons employment, advancement, admissions to academic or other programs, tenure, or promotion, based solely upon anybody who be the subject of an ethics complaint.

#### **1.9.7.Duties to environment**

NR should: Ensure that the research does not impact on the environment in a manner that is harmful to the health and well-being of the population, nature and the environment. In all instances health researchers must ensure that the environment is protected for the benefit of present and future generations as is required by the Indian Constitution. Recognize that natural resources are limited and guard against their exploitation. Health researchers should protect the environment and the public by assuring that the all waste products are disposed according to biomedical waste management protocol.

#### **1.9.8.Data and Specimen Storage**

Data and specimens obtained as a result of research activity should be securely stored. Data, including tape recordings should be stored for a minimum of 2 years after publication or 6 years in the absence of publication. There must be justifiable reasons for transfer of data and specimens which should be provided to Research Ethics Committees for data and specimens



*Angela*  
**SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL**  
PRINCIPAL  
Jubilee Mission College of Nursing  
THRISSUR - 680 005