

The ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses states that the nurse advocates for the patients rights, health, and safety. The current definition of human rights emerged from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December of 1948. This document stated the fundamental human rights that were universally protected. Human rights are now the minimum standards for how a person can expect to be treated by others. When discussing the rights of patients in healthcare, the code of ethics for nurses goes even further to include the protection of human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities. (ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights, 2016) Nurses were meant to advocate for the patient despite their social status, access to healthcare, and other social and economic services. The International Council of Nurses also states that it is the nurse's responsibility to promote overall health, prevent illnesses, restore health, and alleviate suffering. (ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights, 2016) This code also requires nurses to provide fair and equal treatment to all patients despite their illness, abilities, socioeconomic status, functional status, and proximity to death. However, the nurse must consider these factors when contemplating the patient's care and the appropriate actions for the patient. The patient should have appropriate access to adaptive devices such as walkers when ambulating or weighted utensils for tremors. The nurse cannot prioritize patients based on code status or deny adequate care. The nurse advocates for the patient's wishes and ensures that the patient's overall needs are being met throughout their stay.

ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights. (2016). The Nurse's Role in Ethics and Human Rights: Protecting and Promoting Individual Worth, Dignity, and Human Rights in Practice Settings.
<https://www.nursingworld.org/~4af078/globalassets/docs/ana/ethics/ethics-and-human-rights-protecting-and-promoting-final-formatted-20161130.pdf>