

THIRD EDITION

Nursing Ethics AND **Professional Responsibility** IN ADVANCED PRACTICE

Edited by

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Production Credits

VP, Executive Publisher: David D. Cella
Executive Editor: Amanda Martin
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Senior Vendor Manager: Sara Kelly
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Product Fulfillment Manager: Wendy Kilborn
Composition and Project Management: S4Carlisle Publishing Services

Cover Design:
Rights & Media Specialist: Wes DeShano
Media Development Editor: Troy Liston
Cover Image: © 4khz/DigitalVision Vectors/Getty
Printing and Binding: Edwards Brothers Malloy
Cover Printing: Edwards Brothers Malloy

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Grace, Pamela June, editor.
Title: Nursing ethics and professional responsibility in advanced practice / [edited by] Pamela Grace.
Description: Third edition. | Burlington, Massachusetts: Jones & Bartlett Learning, [2018] | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2016047292 | ISBN 9781284107333
Subjects: | MESH: Ethics, Nursing
Classification: LCC RT85 | NLM WY 85 | DDC 174.2--dc23 LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2016047292>

6048

Printed in the United States of America
20 19 18 17 16 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Foreword

The rapidly changing environment of health care challenges all healthcare providers to develop and use updated knowledge in handling the changes. *Ethical knowledge*, broadly defined as knowledge of how to conduct good practice, is a key foundation for describing, assessing, and critiquing practice with the purpose of implementing good care. Advanced practice nurses in the United States and globally are on the front line of responding to changing needs with updated knowledge, particularly ethical knowledge. Every profession has a social mandate to provide a good—a benefit—for society. The social mandate of advanced practice nurses requires knowledge of good practice, based on the goals of nursing. The third edition of *Nursing Ethics and Professional Responsibility in Advanced Practice* by Pamela J. Grace is a timely and significant contribution to nursing knowledge that meets the changing needs of health care. It provides a clear view of the goal of nursing and how all nursing practice is based on an ethical stance of doing good.

This is the only book focused on ethics in advanced practice, and the text is widely used both in the United States and abroad. As one of the users of this book, I can speak to its valuable features from my own experience. With an already highly successful book, the author has built upon the best features of earlier editions to provide updated knowledge for nurses to use in advanced practice ethical decision making. Of particular utility is the level of content and organization provided to assist the reader. The author first focuses on the foundations, both philosophical and practical, of professional ethics and nursing ethics. As a person who is rooted in advanced practice and educated in philosophical ethical content and inquiry, the author strikes an excellent balance between covering essentials and delivering content at a level that is useful for and applicable to the complex situations of practice. This is particularly evident in her work with expert contributing authors in the sections on issues that are common across clinical specialties and in particular areas of advanced practice.

Each chapter provides helpful tables, case studies, and discussion questions. These learning tools are particularly useful, as the authors of each chapter both build on the positive features of earlier editions and update situations and information to maintain clinical relevance. The outcome is an excellent resource for students or for experienced nurses expanding their ethical knowledge. The pithy and relevant quotes from a broad range of literature at the beginning of each chapter are an enjoyable bonus and provide insights for the reader. The continuous raising of questions to consider within the text is effective in helping students and other nurses to enhance their skills of ethical reasoning.

The third edition has the advantage of updated and timely content as well as consistency in writing, achieved through the author working with co-authors to refine the material. This edition makes a great contribution to the field for both those who have used it previously and those who are encountering it for the first time.

All professional nurses will welcome the strong, clear, and consistent representation of roles for advanced practice nurses. Such role clarity is essential in enabling knowledgeable nurses to take an interdisciplinary team approach to the increasingly complex health challenges of our time. This book will contribute to the knowledge of advanced practice nurses who will build our changing systems on the ethical common good.

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Preface

The previous editions of *Nursing Ethics and Professional Responsibility in Advanced Practice* continue to be very well received both in the United States and internationally. In the United States, the first edition received the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and Alpha Sigma Nu Honor society national book award in the category of Health Sciences. This third edition has been revised and updated in response to knowledge developments, emerging issues, and contemporary societal needs as informed by extant literature, colleagues, book reviewers, clinicians, and graduate students. The contents remain focused on incorporating international as well as national perspectives, and initiatives in line with the evolution and expansion of advanced practice nursing (APN) roles internationally, and including the proliferation of doctor of nursing practice (DNP) programs in the United States.

The guest authors and I aimed to provide a consistent thread that relates advanced practice both to nursing practice and to the need for the provision of good health care via effective policies. This book is unique in its application to professional issues associated with advanced practice roles. Although this book is specifically directed to the education of APNs, much of the content is applicable to allied health-care professionals who practice in expanded roles. As in any book concerned with practice, supplementary reading materials may be needed to gain in-depth or up-to-the-minute knowledge of a specific problem. Additional readings are suggested throughout as appropriate. The content is accessible to anyone who is charged with the ethics education of APN students, including non-nurse philosophers or ethicists. A foundational assumption of the book is that APNs have augmented responsibilities to patients, communities, and society that derive from the nature of the APN role.

This assumption grounds the initial purpose of developing this book: to fill a critical knowledge and skill gap. In teaching a mandatory ethics course for advanced practice nursing students, it became obvious to me that no suitable comprehensive book existed. A resource was needed that would locate APNs' understanding of their responsibilities within the goals and perspectives of their profession while providing them with a strong background in ethical decision making, methods of problem analysis, and strategies for problem resolution. The augmented responsibilities of the APN role demand a resource that is specifically dedicated to exploring the types and complexities of issues faced by this set of nurses. It had become increasingly clear to me over time, and as a result of a variety of experiences, that this book was needed. I became an APN nearly 25 years ago. Since that time, I have taught advanced practice nursing courses, gained a doctorate in philosophy with a concentration in medical ethics, and for the past 16 years have taught (among other courses) a course entitled "Ethical Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing."

One of the foundational assumptions of this book is that the development of confidence in moral decision making is possible and that this is facilitated by practice

in moral reasoning. However, reasoning alone is not sufficient for consistent moral action. The Clinical Ethics Residency for Nurses project (Grace et al., 2014; Robinson et al., 2014) reaffirmed this. Motivation, good communication, mentored practice, and supportive environments are all needed. Many nurses already possess clinical knowledge and expertise, but they also need the tools to identify and articulate to others the requirements for good care in their practice settings, and they need the motivation to provide good care in the face of obstacles. Facilitators of confidence in moral decision making include exposure to contemporary ethics literature, seriously listening to the views of others with whom one would normally disagree in an attempt to understand why the person thinks the way he or she does, practice in exploring difficult cases and articulating salient aspects to others, and understanding the sources of one's own biases and prejudices. Exercises for practicing these skills are offered at the end of most chapters.

The methods I use for teaching my “Ethical Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing” course are eclectic and depend to some extent on the size and makeup of the class. However, it is usually quite interactive, so I do set ground rules—and they have proved to be invaluable for getting input from all class members, whether in the large-group discussion or in smaller-group discussions. That these ground rules facilitate participation by even the most timid is evidenced in both class interactions and course evaluations. Ground rules for discussion are that persons should consider their points carefully, articulate them succinctly (this skill can take time to learn), be nonjudgmental in any challenge to the point of view of others, consider all sides of an issue carefully, and be willing to try to understand another person's perspective even when disagreement exists. In the small-group case, discussion members take turns leading the group and reporting the group process.

This book is divided into three sections. The first section lays a foundation for understanding ethical advanced practice nursing. The chapters in this section build upon one another. Chapter 1 traces the development of professional ethics back to its origins in moral philosophy; that is, in the development of theories about what it is good for human beings to be or do. Chapter 2 explores the idea that nursing ethics is an area of study about what are good nursing actions and why, and is also an appraisal of nursing actions.

The second section investigates common issues in advanced practice that occur regardless of setting, or which occur in many settings, and provides resources and strategies for dealing with these. Chapter 3 explores the characteristics needed for good advanced practice, decision-making issues as these relate both to patients and APNs, concerns about privacy and confidentiality, and the importance of truth-telling. Two new and extensive sections discussing ethical problems associated with social media and electronic health records have been added. Chapter 4 explores the tensions for APNs between attending to the needs of individuals and the needs of the larger society. It discusses human rights and the idea of professional advocacy for ethical healthcare environments. Chapter 5 explores the leadership obligations of APNs and DNPs. Chapter 6 discusses advanced practice roles related to the ethical treatment of persons who are human subjects of research or who are considering whether they should enroll in a research study.

The third and final section consists of seven chapters, each of which is dedicated to a separate area of specialty practice. The chapter authors each hold advanced practice

qualifications in the specialty area and/or have knowledge of the ethical issues peculiar to the content area. The specialty areas are neonatal, pediatrics, women's health, adult health and gerontology, psychiatric, nurse anesthesia, and palliative care and end-of-life issues.

► References

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Acknowledgments

This edition was made possible by the ongoing support, insight, and experiences of countless past and current patients, nurses, colleagues, students, friends, and family. As usual, I owe special thanks and praise to guest authors, who each provided “true” accounts and illustrations of issues faced in their specialties and without whose contributions this book could not achieve its purpose. Additionally, the editorial and marketing staff at Jones & Bartlett Learning continue to be available, helpful, and encouraging.

In prior editions I paid tribute to my late mother, who was a nurse and a midwife. Her influence as my nursing role model lives on in many ways, however, and especially in this work. The late David Roberts was also a strong influence on my educational development.

I am grateful for the ongoing friendship, encouragement, and support of many people. Nan Gaylord contributed two chapters and is a dear friend and colleague; she was instrumental in encouraging me to develop the book. Dorothy Jones, Ellen Mahoney, Sister Callista Roy, and Danny Willis have all continued to provide friendship, intellectual stimulation, and advice. I am especially honored that Sister Callista Roy provided a foreword to this edition. Her ongoing mentorship is treasured.

In addition to nursing colleagues, my thanks go to faculty in the philosophy department at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville who helped me develop and hone philosophical skills—although they didn’t completely succeed in getting me to exchange my “nursing hat” for that of a philosopher. Glenn Graber deserves a special mention for his steadfast support of my desire to apply the fruits of philosophical study to nursing problems. I have also benefited from the lasting friendships of my philosophy student cohort.

Finally, many thanks to my husband, Chris Hayford, who continues to bring joy and humor into my life.

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