



## Code of Ethics

### Introduction

To support the care of children and adolescents, PNCB expects that everyone who holds a credential or is certified by this organization will uphold and adhere to the following ethical pledge. PNCB credentials include, but are not limited to: PNCB certifications, microcredentials, certificates, career readiness programs, and skills assessments. The Code of Ethics establishes ethical standards for PNCB credential holders and candidates, and guides the PNCB credential holder in ethical responsibility, conduct, and decision making. The Code of Ethics is used by PNCB governance to guide decisions on matters of ethical misconduct by credential holders and candidates.

### Credential holders, and candidates for PNCB credentials, career readiness, and assessment programs will:

1. Be responsible and accountable for positively and respectfully contributing to the dignity and integrity of their profession and upholding the core values and standards of PNCB.
2. Maintain a current, valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse while holding the following PNCB certifications: Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Acute Care (CPNP-AC), Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care (CPNP-PC), Certified Pediatric Nurse (CPN), and Pediatric Primary Care Mental Health Specialist (PMHS).
3. Maintain the patient's right to privacy and confidentiality.
4. Maintain high standards in their practice and refrain from direct or indirect participation in deceptive, illegal, or unethical activities.
5. Report critical incidents, adverse events, and medical errors in accordance with law, accreditation standards and institutional policy to promote a culture of safety, maintain the integrity of their professions and advance their professions and its body of knowledge.
6. Promptly inform PNCB of any known fraudulent use of PNCB credentials or cheating by others.
7. Contribute to the safety and protection of patients by reporting incompetent, unethical or illegal practices or behaviors.
8. Provide care in accordance with professional scope and standards of practice compliant with state licensure as required, including but not limited to:
  - a. Consistently updating specialty skills and knowledge to maintain competency.
  - b. Treating all patients, children and adolescents with respect and compassion by providing quality care regardless of their ethnicity or race, religion, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, social and/or economic status.
  - c. Promoting and maintaining a safe environment by ensuring the provision of competent care that embraces the physical, emotional, and spiritual health of patients, children, and adolescents in a multicultural and global society.

**Credential holders, and candidates for PNCB credentials, career readiness, and assessment programs are prohibited from:**

1. Cheating, engaging in unauthorized copying, disclosure, or discussing of secure exam materials, or otherwise violating exam security on PNCB exams or assessments, or assisting another in such misconduct, whether before, during, or after a PNCB exam or assessment.
2. Submitting to the PNCB any knowingly false or misleading information or documentation in an attempt to obtain or retain or assist another in obtaining or retaining a PNCB credential.
3. Fraudulently using any PNCB credential.
4. Engaging in behavior that poses a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of others in connection with practice, other than reasonable risks taken in a patient's interests during the delivery of health care.
5. Disclosing confidential patient information without authorization other than in compliance with legal requirements or employer rules.
6. Engaging in conduct that violates the standards of practice and/or professional scope of practice of the nurse, violating laws relating to the nursing profession, or violating other laws that are contrary to the values of the nursing profession.
7. Failing to maintain a current, active, unrestricted, or unencumbered RN license while holding a PNCB certification (CPNP-AC, CPNP-PC, CPN, PMHS).
8. Failing to report to the PNCB any adverse licensing or credentialing action within 30 days of such adverse action, including, but not limited to, revocation, suspension, surrender, loss or denial of, or any restrictions, conditions or fines imposed on any license, authorization, or credential to practice as a health care provider (including authorization to practice as an employee of the federal government or in a jurisdiction not requiring licensure), whether such adverse action is by decision, consent order, stipulation, or agreement.
9. Engaging in abusive or harassing conduct or communications with or towards PNCB staff, test center personnel, or the PNCB organization.
10. Making false, materially misleading, or defamatory statements – including, without limitation, by posting on social media – about the PNCB, its personnel, policies, or operations.
11. Failing to report to the PNCB within 30 days any conviction, guilty plea, or no contest plea to felony or misdemeanor charges related to the nurse's practice.
12. Failing to cooperate with and respond truthfully to inquiries from the PNCB related to their own or another's compliance with the PNCB's policies and this Code of Ethics.

PNCB may take disciplinary action against anyone who holds a PNCB credential or career readiness or assessment program credential who commits a violation of this Code of Ethics. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, private reprimand, public censure, suspension of a credential or eligibility for a credential, or revocation or denial of credential. Except for non-private reprimands or as required by law or as appropriate to cooperate with requests from state and federal agencies, the PNCB may make sanction decisions public and may send notification to the employer, state board(s) of nursing or regulatory entity where appropriate.

The PNCB has the right to impose disciplinary action against individuals for violations of the Code of Ethics that occurred when the individual's credential/certificate/badge has lapsed.