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**HEALTH**

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HE301\*

Nurses Act 1992

**Nurse Practitioners Code of Practice 2004**

Issued by the Nurses Board of Western Australia under section 9 of the Act with the approval of the Governor in Executive Council.

**1. Citation**

This code may be cited as the *Nurse Practitioners Code of Practice 2004*.

**2. Interpretation**

In this code —

“**client**” includes patient;

“**poison**” has the meaning given to that term in the *Poisons Act 1964* section 5.

**3. *Nurses Code of Practice 2000* applies to nurse practitioners**

The *Nurses Code of Practice 2000* applies to a nurse practitioner in addition to this code.

**4. Role of other health care workers**

- (1) Before undertaking treatment of a client, a nurse practitioner should give due consideration to consulting with any other health care worker who may have additional relevant skills or knowledge.
- (2) Before undertaking treatment of a client, a nurse practitioner should give due consideration to giving a client a referral to, or advising the client to seek advice from, another health care worker.

**5. Diagnostic tests and investigations**

- (1) A nurse practitioner who —
  - (a) undertakes a diagnostic test or investigation on a client, or requests that such a test or investigation be undertaken on the client; or

- (b) proposes to a client that the nurse practitioner undertake a particular treatment of the client based on the results of such a test or investigation,

should have a detailed knowledge of current science-based practices and information relating to the test or investigation.

- (2) A nurse practitioner who, based on the results of a diagnostic test or investigation, proposes to a client that the nurse practitioner undertake a particular treatment of the client, should have given due consideration to consulting with any other health care worker who may have additional relevant skills or knowledge in the interpretation of the results of such a test or investigation.

## **6. Supplying and prescribing poisons**

- (1) Before proposing to a client that the nurse practitioner undertake a particular treatment of the client involving a poison the nurse practitioner should give due consideration to consulting with another health care worker who may have additional relevant skills or knowledge.
- (2) A nurse practitioner who supplies or prescribes a poison for a client should —
  - (a) follow best clinical practice for the prescription of poisons and related record keeping; and
  - (b) have a detailed knowledge of current science-based practices and information relating to the poison.

## **7. Awareness of laws relating to nurse practitioners**

A nurse practitioner should ensure that she or he is informed in relation to Commonwealth and State laws affecting the practice of nurse practitioners, including subsidiary legislation, common law and professional codes of practice and ethics that may be in force from time to time.

Issued by the Nursing Board of Western Australia under resolution dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2004.

LOUISE M. HORGAN  
Presiding Member

JOHN MYERS  
Member

Common Seal

Approved by the Governor in Executive Council,

M. C. WAUCHOPE, Clerk of the Executive Council.