A Reflection Guide | The Power of You — The RN
For Registered Nurses (Staff RNs and APRNs) and Nurse Leaders
“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

— Helen Keller
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“To do what nobody else will do, in a way that nobody else can do, in spite of all we go through: that is what it means to be a nurse.”

— Rawsi Williams
Alice Corbett, FNP, MS, CPEN, NEA-BC, is the vice president of patient services and chief nursing officer at NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital. Until July 2015, Ms. Corbett held the title of director of nursing at NewYork-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital with responsibility for the Pediatric Emergency Department, Pediatric Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology, and the Outpatient Pediatric Oncology and Non-oncology Infusion Centers. She earned a BA in psychology (Iona College) and an MS in nursing (Pace University). Ms. Corbett has many years’ experience in clinical nursing and has spent the past 15 years in nursing administration. She has presented nationally on health care topics specific to emergency and radiology department clinical and operational improvements. Ms. Corbett is particularly interested in the mentoring of both clinical and management nursing staff.

Bertha Ku, MPH, RN, is the nursing program director for Corporate Nursing and Nursing Credentialing Services at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. She earned a BSN at Binghamton University and an MPH in community health at Hunter College, New York. Ms. Ku began her nursing career as a staff nurse in pediatric/adult bone marrow transplant. She has over 20 years of nursing experience, which includes being an adjunct nursing professor at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, NY, and various managerial positions in hospital risk management and clinical pharmacovigilance. Her primary research interests include nursing accountability and empathy in patient care.

Germaine C. Nelson, MBA, MSN, RN, CEN, is a nurse leader and community advocate. She is the former director of nursing in the emergency department of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University. Ms. Nelson earned a BSN (State University of New York-Downstate), an MSN (State University of New York at Brooklyn) and an MBA from St. Joseph’s College in 2008. Ms. Nelson has a demonstrated record of achievement in education and nursing management. She has received the Patient Centered Care Team Award (2012), the Nursing Leadership Award (2003) and the Clinical Excellence Award (2002). Ms. Nelson has a comprehensive record in all areas of emergency services, and is co-author of an article pending publication, “Emergency Department Crowding and Hand Hygiene Compliance” (2015). She is a co-author of “Early Detection and Treatment of Severe Sepsis in the Emergency Department” (Journal of Emergency Nursing, 2012), identifying barriers to implementation of protocol-based approaches.
**Mary E. Quinn, MSN, RN**, is director of nursing quality and nursing improvement Initiatives, Corporate Nursing at NewYork-Presbyterian in New York, NY, a position she has held since 2013. Since 2008, she has also been administrator-on-call for NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She has been at NYP since 1999, first as manager of Internal Audit until 2003, and then as director of nursing quality within the Quality Division from 2003 to 2012. In 2006, she completed training as a Master Black Belt in Six Sigma methodology. Prior to her time at NYP, she held several positions at Bellevue Hospital Center, New York, NY, spanning an 18-year period, starting as a staff nurse on a trauma unit and progressing to head nurse of the same trauma unit and then to director of central sterile supply/general stores and biomedical engineering. She earned both a Bachelor of Science in nursing (1981) and a Master of Science in nursing administration (1991) at Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing.

**Deborah J. Stilgenbauer, MA, RN, NEA-BC**, is the director of finance, NewYork-Presbyterian, New York, NY. Ms. Stilgenbauer received an MA (Teachers College, Columbia University) from the Nurse Executive Program, a BSN (Adelphi University) and an AAS (Nassau Community College). Ms. Stilgenbauer has 15 years of experience as director of nursing, specializing in finance. Leadership and clinical experience support her current position as liaison between the nursing and finance departments. She develops programs to educate nurse leaders about finance and presents to the new graduate nurses in the Nurse Residency program at NYP. She has guest lectured at the NYU College of Nursing graduate program on the topics of health care reform and nursing finance for nurse leaders. Ms. Stilgenbauer co-authored “Demystifying Finance in Perioperative Nursing,” an article published in OR 2015 (March 2015) and was also a contributing author in Review of Medical Surgical Nursing (1979).

**Lovelyamma Varghese, FNP, MSN, RN, BC**, has been the director of nursing, NewYork-Presbyterian/Ambulatory Care Network, in New York since 2007. She earned a BSN degree from The City College of New York and earned her Master of Science as a family nurse practitioner from The College of New Rochelle. She has held adjunct faculty positions with SUNY Rockland, Suffern, NY, and Dominican College, Orangeburg, NY. She has received many honors and awards, including a certificate of community service award from Senator Thomas P. Morahan for outstanding community service in 2002. She has provided consultation to many international universities including Focus Care Inc., Bangalore, India; GBT International Medical College, Tbilisi, Georgia; and Lviv Medical College, Lviv, Ukraine. In addition to consultation services, she has formulated and implemented an international live videoconference NCLEX-RN review course for Focus Care Inc., India. She has presented nationally and internationally, most recently was at the 2014 American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) annual meeting in Orlando, FL. Her presentation was recognized as the conference highlight of the year by the organization. Her publications include contributed chapters for Dr. Frances Monahan's NCLEX-RN review book and an article written from the AAACN viewpoint on ambulatory nursing in 2010. She is passionate about patient empowerment through education.
Introduction

As you watch this documentary, you will hear stories from five nurses about their professional experiences as a nurse and the myriad emotions they experienced — with laughter, tears, hugs and smiles. You will hear about the satisfaction they gain from caring for their patients as well as the challenges and frustrations they face with the changing health care environment. This film is a snapshot of their personal lives and professional experiences, and complements the 70 other nurse interviews presented in The American Nurse Book (Jones, 2012).

In the film, these nurses with varied backgrounds and practice settings share their stories. They share the intimate details of themselves and their relationships with their patients. Storytelling has been a vehicle for people to share and document their experiences and teachings for centuries. Nursing theorists Mary Jane Smith and Patricia Liehr developed Story Theory, an expression of events infused with personal perspective to provide the listener with insight about feelings and meaning that guide choices (Smith & Liehr, 2008). The assumptions of Story Theory are that people change as they interrelate with their world, live in a moment when past and future events transform into the here and now, and lastly, create meaning as they develop a resonating awareness in the unfolding of human potential (Smith & Liehr, 2005). Presence, personal reflection and a sense of well-being are three characteristics of Story Theory. Nurses incorporate these concepts into their practice every day. Try viewing the film with true presence from the perspective of Story Theory, listening without judgment, noting incidents of reflection by our storytellers and finally noticing whether the story comes together as a whole, creating ease for the storyteller.

As you follow each story, you will see each nurse's control of his or her practice as he or she manages the complexities of each patient's health care needs. You will see and feel the POWER of each nurse and the pride each takes in being a nurse. As the nurses assist their patients in managing their health and activities of daily living, you will see how their practices embody the core values and ethics of the professional nurse described in the 2015 ANA Code of Ethics and as outlined in the provisions on the following page.

Alice Corbett, FNP, MS, CPEN, NEA-BC
Bertha Ku, MPH, RN
Germaine C. Nelson, MBA, MSN, RN, CEN
Mary E. Quinn, MSN, RN
Deborah J. Stilgenbauer, MA, RN, NEA-BC
Lovelyamma Varghese, FNP, MSN, RN, BC
For information on the ANA Code of Ethics, go to: 
nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-of-Ethics-For-Nurses.html.

“People will forget what you said, they will forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel!”
— Maya Angelou
How to Watch the Film

This reflection guide is meant to accompany the feature documentary The American Nurse: Healing America, which was released theatrically in May 2014. There are several ways to purchase and watch the film, individually or as a group:

- If you’d like to show the film in your institution, an Education & Library License allows the purchaser to use the film in the classroom setting or other educational forum. This license does not allow for screenings in theaters, for charging of admission of any kind or for broadcast to the public. You can purchase an Education & Library DVD and License here as well: nehst.com/product/the-american-nurse.
- If you’re interested in hosting a screening event, please contact DigiNext for pricing and details: https://lm142.infusionsoft.com/app/form/e49278370183551de6707edcde4416cb1.
- For in-home personal use, you can purchase the DVD, download it or rent it online: nehst.com/product/the-american-nurse.

About the Film

The American Nurse explores some of the biggest issues facing America — aging, war, poverty, prisons — through the work and lives of five nurses. It is an examination of real people that will change how we think about nurses and how we wrestle with the challenges of healing America.

Jason Short drives up a creek to reach a homebound cancer patient in Appalachia. Tonia Faust runs a prison hospice program where inmates serving life sentences care for their fellow inmates as they’re dying. Naomi Cross coaches patient Becky, an ovarian cancer survivor, through the cesarean delivery of her son. Sister Stephen runs a nursing home where she uses goats, sheep, dogs and llamas for animal therapy and the entire nursing staff comes together to sing to a dying resident. And Brian McMillion, an Army veteran and former medic, rehabilitates wounded soldiers returning from war.

The film is a part of the American Nurse Project and made possible with the generous support of Fresenius Kabi. To learn about the project, visit www.americannurseproject.com.

“The only way to do great work is to love what you do!”

— Steve Jobs
SISTER STEPHEN
Sister Stephen is the director of nursing at the Villa Loretto Nursing Home in rural Wisconsin, where she has cultivated a menagerie of animals including dogs, cows, sheep, llamas, alpacas and ring-tailed lemurs. The villa is also the weekend home of children in need of respite — some are in foster homes; others have emotional problems or have been victims of abuse — and the animals are therapeutic for the children and the elderly residents alike. In a tender scene, Sister Stephen brings all the nurses and staff members together to sing a last hymn to a long-term and beloved resident as they approach the end of life.

BRIAN MCMILLION
Brian McMillion, a military nurse with the VA San Diego Health System, was on an uncertain path when at age 19 his father gave him two choices: “Go to college or enlist in the military. Except you’re not ready for college.” He spent time overseas, where he was the first person catastrophically wounded soldiers would see when they woke up, often missing limbs and suffering from PTSD, wanting only to go back to their brothers in combat. In his current role, Brian works with young, injured soldiers fresh from the combat theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Caring is the essence of nursing.”
— Jean Watson
NAOMI CROSS
A labor and delivery nurse at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Naomi Cross spends most of her days filled with the joy of helping bring new life into the world. When hopes and dreams don’t go as planned, Naomi also serves as a neonatal bereavement counselor, drawing from her own experience of loss to counsel a family when their baby dies even before being born.

TONIA FAUST
With a mother who worked as a security guard at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Tonia Faust grew up in the shadow of a maximum security prison. She started working as a nurse and ended up following her mother’s path to Angola, where she now directs the hospice nursing program. Tonia also oversees a team of inmates who volunteer to care for their dying peers with an outpouring of compassion and grace not expected behind bars.

JASON SHORT
Born and raised in one of the poorest rural counties in the U.S., Jason Short was a mechanic and truck driver who has transitioned from fixing cars to fixing people. He spends his days forging into the remote hollows of Eastern Kentucky, helping his patients in their battles with cancer, diabetes and black lung disease. Providing care in a region plagued by poverty, drug addiction, industrial pollution and more, Jason is intimately acquainted with a part of America few will ever see.
WHY WATCH THE AMERICAN NURSE?
After viewing this film, the viewer should be able to:
• Identify at least three “real world” pressures of a professional nurse and relate them to personal experience.
• Describe the inspiration and motivation behind each of the nurses depicted in this film.
• Identify at least one example of the caring/compassion, resilience, autonomy, critical thinking/resourcefulness and leadership characteristics displayed in each nurse’s story.
• Describe at least one example of how the nurses in the film address the challenges presented by the current health care industry.
• Describe one way you will use this film to enrich your nursing practice.

WHAT IS A REFLECTION GUIDE?
The purpose of the reflection guide is to facilitate and guide group discussion, inspire personal reflections while viewing the film, and do the following:
• Engage staff to reflect on important nursing issues such as caring, compassion, patient advocacy and the changing health care environment.
• Reflect on your own personal stories — your inner strength.
• Understand the challenges nurses face today while igniting the true spirit of nursing and core values that include caring and compassion.
• Highlight the various roles and practice environments to draw the essence of nursing from each nurse’s experience.
• Celebrate nursing as a profession — experience a sense of pride and inspiration!

BEFORE YOU WATCH OR SHOW THE DOCUMENTARY
Facilitator Tips • Setting the stage for viewers
Each facilitator should be fully prepared prior to group presentation (e.g., thoroughly review discussion guide and watch film). Key tips include:
• Refocus group on discussion guide topics when necessary.
• Practice reflective listening to ensure all questions and comments are understood by the group.
• Ask open-ended questions to facilitate discussion (e.g., use reflective questions from discussion guide).
• Encourage active group participation (e.g., break into smaller groups in order to facilitate larger group discussion).
• Summarize group discussion themes periodically.

Viewer Tips • Tools & Exercises
For RN viewers to use while watching the documentary. [Refer to Attachment A in the Tools section of this guide.]
THE AMERICAN NURSE — VIEWER TOOL

This tool helps the viewer recall specifically how he or she felt while watching each nurse recount his or her personal story. The five nurses featured are each introduced, and their real-life nursing practice is revealed.

Instructions: As you watch the film and note key examples of each nurse’s story and how it relates to your practice, think about how it made you feel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurse</th>
<th>Inspiration (What inspires them?)</th>
<th>Motivation (What motivates them?)</th>
<th>Your Personal Response (Ideas about your practice. Is there anything you would change/incorporate after viewing each nurse’s story?)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Cross</td>
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<td>Jason Short</td>
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Additional Reflection Questions:

What common themes did you notice?

What did these five nurses have in common?

Transformational Leadership Exemplar. Transformational leadership theory was first introduced in 1978 by James McGregor Burns. He described it as leadership that occurs when the leader engages with others in a way that raises their level of performance and motivation. Those influenced by transformational leaders find meaning and value in their work, are able to make significant contributions to their organizations and are more likely to become leaders themselves. There are four key attributes of transformational nurse leaders:

1. They serve as role models and “walk the talk.”
2. They inspire motivation in others by having a strong vision about their work.
3. They are concerned about the individual and demonstrate genuine concern for others’ needs and feelings.
4. They challenge and develop others to be innovative and creative, and they nurture thinking.

From these five RN stories, what characteristics of a transformational nurse leader did you observe? Why?
EXERCISE #1: CONNECTING WITH YOUR NURSE PEERS/-Colleagues

Instructions: Now that you have watched the film, let’s look at the objectives and answer the following questions.

Identify at least three “real world” pressures of a professional nurse, and relate them to your personal experience.

1. _______________________________  2. _______________________________  3. _______________________________

Describe the inspiration and motivation behind each of the nurses depicted in this film.

Identify at least one example of the caring/compassion, resilience, autonomy, critical thinking/resourcefulness and leadership characteristics displayed in each nurse’s story.

Describe at least one example of how the nurses in the film address the challenges presented by the current health care industry.

Describe one way you will use this film to enrich your nursing practice.

Do you have a personal story from your own practice that was brought to mind during this film?

Will you change your practice? In what ways?

Personal Development: How has viewing these nurses in their daily practice motivated you? What do you want to accomplish within the next year? Two years?
EXERCISE #2: CONNECTING WITH YOUR NURSE PEERS/COLLEAGUES

[Refer to Attachment C in the Tools section in the guide.]

Purpose:
- To connect with our peers and showcase the ability for nurses to connect, care and promote healing.
- To develop a deeper connection with each other.
- To build on our relationships as professional nurses.

Facilitator:
- Ask all the nurses to take a few moments to reflect on their career in nursing — highlight that each nurse’s story is unique and important. Each nurse should find that his or her journey has been interesting, fulfilling and affirming.

Questions:

What is your current area of practice, and why did you choose it for your practice environment?

Describe what the profession of nursing means to you.

What is your educational background, including non-nursing educational pursuits?

Tell us something about yourself that your colleagues do not know.

Please take a picture of yourself that you feel describes you, to share with your peers.

Write three to five sentences that would describe you as a professional.
EXERCISE #3: ALIGNING OUR PRACTICE AS NURSES WITH THE ANA CODE OF ETHICS

[Refer to Attachment D in the Tools section in the guide.]

Take a few minutes to review the nine provisions of ANA’s 2015 Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements below. Provide an applicable example that you observed while watching the film. Evaluate your own practice as a nurse, and provide an example of how your practice reflects each provision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANA Code of Ethics Provision</th>
<th>Observation from film — provide one example, as applicable</th>
<th>Your practice/experience as an RN — provide one example</th>
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<tr>
<td>The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.</td>
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<td>The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes actions consistent with the obligation to promote health and provide optimal care.</td>
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CONTINUED
EXERCISE #3: ALIGNING OUR PRACTICE AS NURSES WITH THE ANA CODE OF ETHICS
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<td>The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competency, and continue personal and professional growth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.</td>
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<td>The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.</td>
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<td>The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.</td>
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Innovative Strategies

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE OF THE FILM AND REFLECTION GUIDE

Recommendations for viewing and use of the documentary:

• RN Residency Programs — The Novice RN: Transitioning From Student to Practicing RN.
• RN Orientation Programs — Shown at the beginning of orientation program to set the stage for the various roles of nurses.
• The Experienced/Expert RN — To reinvigorate the nurse spirit.
• The Advanced Practice RN — To reinvigorate the core nurse values of the APRN.
• Grand Rounds — A focused discussion on key concepts of nursing practice as shown or discussed in the film (nurse empowerment, caring, compassion fatigue, etc.).

Other ideas include:

• Nurse Celebrations
  • Nurses Week Celebration
  • Anniversary Milestones — RN Recognition Years of Service
  • Specialty Nurse Conferences/Association Meetings

• Create an RN Challenge (example — the ALS Bucket Challenge)
  • For RNs:
    • I AM PROUD TO BE A NURSE
    • BEING AN RN MEANS TO ME _________________. (fill in the blank words)
  • For others (non-RNs):
    • PROUD TO KNOW RN _________________. (put in RN Name)

• Uses include fundraising for American Nurses Foundation (participating in the American Nurses Foundation Honor A Nurse program; learn more at www.givetonursing.org); RN recognition — RN to RN; RN testimonials on why nursing is important to them; others recognizing an RN who made a difference; social media: Twitter, Facebook, etc.
RESOURCES

Reflection Guide Tools: Refer to Attachments in the Tools section

American Nurse Foundation website: givetonursing.org

American Nurse Association website: nursingworld.org

ANA Code of Ethics: nursingworld.org/ MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses

The American Nurse Project website: americannurseproject.com

Learning about Nursing at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital: careers.nyp.org/nursing/nursing-at-nyp.html

Director and Executive Producer Carolyn Jones' website: carolynjones.com

REFERENCES


The People Behind the Film

CAROLYN JONES • Director and Executive Producer

Carolyn Jones is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker who specializes in telling stories that shed light on issues of global concern. Carolyn founded the nonprofit 100 People Foundation, which creates educational films and curricula for schoolchildren worldwide. She has spent the past three years interviewing nurses from all over the country for the book and documentary film *The American Nurse*. The black-and-white photos in this guide were taken by Carolyn Jones for *The American Nurse* book.

LISA FRANK • Producer

As director of programs and production for the 100 People Foundation, Lisa has traveled the globe with director Carolyn Jones to produce award-winning short documentaries on global issues for students worldwide. She has spent the past three years in collaboration with Jones to produce the book, film and website that make up *The American Nurse Project*.

Through the generosity of Carolyn Jones Production and DigiNext, 10 percent of movie sales support scholarships for nurses from The American Nurse Foundation. To support the fund, visit www.givetonursing.org.
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Several exercises are provided to facilitate group and personal reflection.

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<td>The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.</td>
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<td>The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.</td>
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<td>The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes actions consistent with the obligation to promote health and provide optimal care.</td>
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CONTINUED →
EXERCISE #3: ALIGNING OUR PRACTICE AS NURSES WITH THE ANA CODE OF ETHICS
CONTINUED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANA Code of Ethics Provision</th>
<th>Observation from film — provide one example, as applicable</th>
<th>Your practice/ experience as an RN — provide one example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competency, and continue personal and professional growth.</td>
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<td>The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.</td>
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<td>The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.</td>
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<td>The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.</td>
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<td>The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>