



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ETHICS FOR THE LIFE SCIENCES

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Opinion on the practice of nursing in specific contexts

(June 2013)



CNECV

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Considering that the three questions asked to the CNECV in January 2013 by the Nurses Association concern:

1. The practice of nursing in the scope of Primary Health Care and Hospital Care;
2. The implications of the eventual practice of Pre-Natal Care (PNC) by specialized nurses in Maternal Health and Obstetrics (SNMHO) to low risk healthy pregnant women;
3. The skills of other health professionals (non-nurses) in pre-hospital emergency.

The CNECV issues the following Opinion:

1. It is not the CNECV's duty to determine, deliberate or regulate the specific and particular skills of the various health professionals– which belong to the respective area of Government and the Associations.
2. In this context, the CNECV shall not go beyond stating the general ethical rules to be fulfilled in the case of eventual changes to be carried out in health care service rendering, which initiative and implementation are not under CNECV's scope.
3. Every patient who receives professional health care must be able to be sure and to trust the skills and excellence of the care takers provided by the responsible institutions.
4. The legitimate expectations of whoever receives care must be adequate to the necessary skills of the professionals who render that care.
5. In any case, every patient ought to receive excellent care assured by the medical «state of the art».

Lisbon, 21 June 2013

President, *Miguel Oliveira da Silva*

Rapporteurs: *Miguel Oliveira da Silva* and *Michel Renaud*.

This Opinion was approved in the plenary meeting on 21 June 2013 in which, besides the President, the following Counsellors were present:

Agostinho Almeida Santos; Ana Sofia Carvalho; Carolino Monteiro; Francisco Carvalho Guerra; Isabel Santos; João Ramalho-Santos; Jorge Sequeiros; José Germano de Sousa; Lucília Nunes; Maria do Céu Patrão Neves; Michel Renaud; Pedro Nunes; Rita Lobo Xavier; Rosalvo Almeida.