



CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSING ACTIVITIES

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Christian Science nursing is grounded in the theology of Christian Science, as found in the Bible, especially the word and works of Christ Jesus, and as explained in *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy. This Scope of Services is intended to clarify what individuals may expect when engaging the services of a Christian Science nurse. It touches briefly on the main aspects of, and ethical considerations related to, those services.

Christian Science nurses provide loving support and skillful practical care for those relying exclusively on Christian Science for healing. This Christian Science nursing care is provided together with spiritual support through prayer, usually given by a Christian Science practitioner listed in *The Christian Science Journal*. It supports the individual's informed and voluntary decision to rely on the teachings of Christian Science with an expectation of healing.

The founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, established the authority and standard for the Christian Science nurse in 1908, in the *Manual of The Mother Church*. (Page 49, Article VIII, Section 31):

Christian Science Nurse. SECT. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.

The cards of such persons may be inserted in *The Christian Science Journal* under rules established by the publishers.

Individuals advertising in *The Christian Science Journal* and *The Herald of Christian Science* have presented satisfactory evidence that they fulfill the requirements in this By-Law. They are generally self-employed and/or employed by a Christian Science nursing organization.

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The care provided by the Christian Science nurse includes:

- Expectancy: Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and quick healing;
- Reassurance: Offering loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence; faithfully and consistently acknowledging each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Inspiration: Providing assistance that enables an individual to study the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy, and additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society, including the *Christian Science Quarterly Bible Lesson*, through reading and other assistance, and ensuring the individual receiving care has uninterrupted time for prayer as needed;
- Surroundings: Maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care and needs of rest;
- Assessment: Discerning needs and assessing appropriate care, considering the individual's awareness of their own needs and ability to communicate them.
- Encouragement: Giving Christian encouragement to support the appropriate expression of activity and vitality;
- Communication: Assisting with specific communication needs (including those related to hearing, vision, speaking, etc.) as well as helping the individual maintain contact with their Christian Science practitioner, family members, and others;
- Cleanliness: Assisting with personal care and bathing: assisting with all necessary care to minister to the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Mobility: Assisting with mobility, including assisting with standing, walking, moving, transfers, and settling, with or without mobility aids or comfort items;
- Nourishment: Preparing and modifying food; assisting with feeding; giving appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Cleansing/bandaging: Cleansing, covering, and bandaging, to provide for cleanliness, protection, support, and comfort;
- Instruction: Instructing the individual and/or other caregivers in how to provide appropriate care.

The care provided by the Christian Science nurse does not include:

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Recommending or administering medication, drugs, dietary supplements, or medicated, herbal, vitamin-based, or alternative remedies;
- Using or administering medically-oriented techniques or technology, such as, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment (e.g., intravenous feeding);
- Engaging in manipulation, massage, physical therapy, or caring for those who are relying on these services;

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- Providing services for those taking any medication, currently under medical care and/or treatment, or using any devices that are typically utilized under the supervision of a medical professional (e.g. feeding tubes, internal catheters, or oxygen devices).

Standards of ethics for Christian Science nurses:

- Upholding the integrity of the ministry of Christian Science nursing through the active study and practice of Christian Science in their daily lives;
- Only providing care that is consistent with the theology of Christian Science and the scope of services of a Christian Science nurse;
- Respecting the dignity, autonomy, and right to self-determination (e.g., care and treatment of their choice) of each individual for whom they provide care;
- Safeguarding the confidentiality of personal information and the right to privacy in accordance with the law;
- Maintaining professional boundaries with individuals receiving care, their families, and substitute decision-makers (e.g., no overfamiliarity, providing personal favors, or sharing personal or intimate information outside of one's scope of work);
- Not assuming the role of the Christian Science practitioner on a case; and guarding against actual or potential conflicts of interest (e.g., not serving as the patient's power of attorney or health care proxy; and not accepting gifts);
- Providing care that is free of unlawful discrimination;
- Committing to continued professional growth and competence;
- Assuming only those Christian Science nursing duties and responsibilities for which one has acquired and maintained necessary understanding, skills, and abilities;
- Being law-abiding.

Fundamental to the ministry of a Christian Science nurse is active, prayerful affirmation of everyone's innate spirituality and responsiveness to God's harmonious government. This spiritual witnessing undergirds each aspect of the care a Christian Science nurse renders.

Updated by Christian Science Nursing Activities
The First Church of Christ, Scientist, June 2025

This document may not be excerpted, cut and pasted, nor used except in its full original form (which includes the letterhead and all pages). Christian Science nurses and organizations that provide and facilitate Christian Science nursing may include this document on their websites embedded as a PDF or they may provide a link to the christianscience.com webpage that has this document. (If questions, please contact Christian Science Nursing Activities at csnursing@csps.com or call +1 617-450-2685.)

Peace Haven Association

Christian Science Nurse Practice Model

Christian Science Nursing Qualities

- Maintains a standard of thought and demonstration consistent with Science and Health, page 395: “The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith – receptive to Truth and Love.”
- Maintains poise and dominion when confronted with aggressive suggestions.
- Shows a willingness and desire to learn, to grow, to work, and to be an active part of the ministry of Christian Science nursing.
- Expresses compassion to everyone with whom one comes in contact.
- Is a peace maker – shows consideration and respect for others, fulfilling The Golden Rule.
- Is growing in spiritual-mindedness as expressed in unity of thought and action.
- Is progressively demonstrating dominion over ill-temper, complaint, and deceit. (Science and Health, page 395.)
- Embraces the unique demands of a Christian Science nursing ministry in a facility setting.

Spiritual Readiness

- Is an active member of a branch church of Christ, Scientist.
- Possesses a demonstrable knowledge of the healing practice of Christian Science.
- Lives in accord with the teachings of Christian Science and is familiar with the expectations of a member of The Mother Church as outlined in Article VIII of the Manual of The Mother Church.
- Maintains a deep study and practice of the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, specifically the chapter on Christian Science Practice in the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.
- Conducts oneself according to the highest ethical standards and is guided by sound morals.
- Expresses humility and spiritual maturity.

Christian Science Nursing Judgment

- Demonstrates the ability to identify and meet individual needs through spiritual vision, intuition, discernment, flexibility, and practical wisdom.
- Identifies and utilizes resources and options with which to meet Christian Science nursing needs.
- Identifies priorities and is guided by sound reasoning to make appropriate decisions.
- Nurses oneself through consistent study and practice of Christian Science.

Christian Science Nursing Skills

- Compassionately comforts, nurtures, and supports others.
- Cares for fellow man with dignity, respect, reverence, consideration, and confidentiality.
- Adapts and refines Christian Science nursing skills within the larger context of contributing to the healing environment.
- Is able to manage and organize Christian Science nursing assignments/cases.
- Is able to evaluate one's own work.
- Is able to give and willing to follow instructions.
- Understands what needs to be communicated and is able to impart it.

Peace Haven is an active expression of divine Love meeting the human need by providing Christian Science nursing care for those wholly relying on Christian Science for healing.