

The First Church of Christ, Scientist

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SCOPE OF SERVICES

Christian Science nursing is grounded in the Bible-based theology of Christian Science, which includes Christ Jesus' commandment to love one another (see John 15:12). This practical care is carried out with prayer, wisdom and skill, supporting the patient's decision to rely on Christian Science for healing, which includes treatment by prayer, generally from a *Journal*-listed Christian Science practitioner.

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.

This *Scope of Services* is intended to clarify for patients and other interested persons what they 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.

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The care of the Christian Science nurse includes:

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and quick healing;
- Giving care that is consistent with the theology and ethics of Christian Science;
- Loving reassurance of God's tender care, ever-presence, and omnipotence; faithfully and consistently acknowledging each individual's spiritual perfection;
- Christian encouragement of a patient's appropriate expression of activity and vitality;
- Reading to or with an individual from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy; also, additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communication: maintaining an ethical, moral, and loving manner in all communications with the patient, family, friends, Christian Science practitioner, and others; observing ethical and legal requirements with regard to private information about the patient;
- Surroundings: maintaining an atmosphere that is conducive to spiritual healing and supportive of harmonious care;
- Personal care and bathing: assisting with all necessary care to meet the needs of cleanliness and comfort;
- Mobility: assisting with mobility including assisting with standing, walking, moving 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;
- Instructing the patient or others in providing care for meeting individual needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land.

The care of the Christian Science nurse does not include:

- Making a medical diagnosis or prognosis;
- Assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the patient;
- Administering medication, drugs or using medicated, herbal, or vitamin-based products and remedies;
- Using and administering medically oriented techniques or technology, including, but not limited to, administering food or liquids with medical equipment, e.g.--intravenous feeding;
- Manipulation, massage, physical therapy;
- Assuming responsibility for a patient's financial or household business transactions;
- Intruding on the private relationship between the patient and the Christian Science practitioner, or between the patient and his or her family;
- Giving personal advice and counsel.

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.

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.