



STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE

The Board of Registered Nursing supports the right of all consumers to receive dignified and competent health care consistent with the law and prevailing standards of care, including the right to participate in and make decisions regarding their health care. The Board also supports the right of the nurse to know the patient's diagnosis/suspected diagnosis in a timely fashion in order to make an appropriate nursing care plan.

The implementation of infection control procedures known as universal precautions is basic in all health care. Universal precautions are regarded by the Board as a common standard of nursing practice necessary to protect both patients and health care workers from disease transmission. Knowledge of the patient's diagnosis(ses) by the registered nurse is essential so that the registered nurse may initiate any additional precautions necessary to minimize the risk of contracting or spreading disease.

Although the nurse is not expected to take life-threatening risks in caring for clients, it is not acceptable to abandon any patient, nor is it acceptable to refuse to treat any person on the basis of age, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. Decisions regarding the degree of risk involved in patient care should be based on current scientific knowledge.

Information on issues related to communicable disease is available from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and from agencies in the State Department of Health Services and County and City Health Agencies.

SOURCE LIST ON REVERSE SIDE

SOURCES OF CURRENT INFORMATION ON AIDS

1. Center for Disease Control
1600 Clifton Road N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30333
Publishes "MMWR" (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) about AIDS each week.

2. General Information from CDC (recorded)
Call 1-800-342-2437

3. AIDS Hotline: Answers questions
Call 1-800-447-AIDS

4. Health Worker's Needle-Stick Survey: A federal study of health workers who have possible exposure to AIDS via needle stick or other work-related incidents. The project is interesting in hearing from hospital infection-control coordinators who want to enroll in the project.
Call (404) 329-3406

5. State of California
Department of Health Services
Office of AIDS
P.O. Box 160146
Sacramento, CA 95816

Contact: (916) 445-0553

6. Los Angeles County
Department of Health Services
AIDS Program
313 North Figueroa Street, Room 222
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Contact: (213) 974-8139