

# The Principles of the Code

**Leadership** in nursing and midwifery means inspiring and guiding others to achieve goals, building trust among individuals, colleagues and the public. Practitioners demonstrate professionalism, adaptability, promote dignity, and support all colleagues, fostering effective teamwork and positive change.

**Respect** is a foundational value, significantly impacting both individual care and professional relationships. Practitioners respect and maintain their dignity and that of individuals in their care, where respect is mutual. They make sure that those receiving care are treated with respect, dignity and compassion, and their rights are upheld.

**Accountability** means being responsible for one's professional judgments, actions, and omissions, and being able to explain these decisions. It involves maintaining competence, ensuring quality care, and maintaining professional standards. Practitioners must always uphold the reputation of their professions and demonstrate accountability and professional responsibility, personal and professional integrity, autonomy, and advocacy



**Collaboration** takes a multi-disciplinary approach to care. Teamwork ensures consistent standards, improving individual experiences and health outcomes while maintaining accountability and safety. Practitioners communicate with individuals, healthcare professionals, colleagues and students. Effective communication enhances wellbeing, and proper record-keeping is vital for safety and continuity of care.

**Trust** is a core professional value, influencing the quality of care and the therapeutic relationship between practitioners and individuals. Open, honest and compassionate professional relationships are based on trust, and follow obligations about privacy and confidentiality. Confidentiality is an expression of the trust inherent in the therapeutic relationship with an individual.

**Competence** is the integration of knowledge, professional judgment, skills, ethical values and attitudes necessary for safe, accountable and effective practice. Individuals have a right to receive safe, high-quality care from competent practitioners who work within their scope of practice, adhering to their level of education, experience, knowledge, skills and judgment to deliver safe and competent care.