The American Nurses Association *Code of Ethics for Nurses* states that the nurse:

The nurse practice with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population.

The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient.

The nurse has authority, accountability, and responsibility for nursing practice; makes decisions; and takes action consistent with the obligation to promote health and to provide optimal care.

The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to promote health and safety, preserve wholeness of character and integrity, maintain competence, and continue personal and professional growth.

The nurse, through individual and collective effort, establishes, maintains, and improves the ethical environment of the work setting and conditions of employment that are conducive to safe, quality health care.

The nurse, in all roles and settings, advances the profession through research and scholarly inquiry, professional standards development, and the generation of both nursing and health policy.

The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public to protect human rights, promote health diplomacy, and reduce health disparities.

The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.
STATEMENT

Ambulatory care settings employ about 25% of registered nurses in the United States. Of these 25%, 33% have a Masters degree or higher (ANA). Most licensed nurses employed by an ambulatory care practice are primarily clinic-based. Some, however, may work totally or periodically in other ambulatory, long-term care facilities, or hospital settings. Their roles can include practice management, triage, care coordination, education, care transitions, health promotion and disease prevention, as well as chronic disease management. Regardless of setting, all licensed nurses have a responsibility to ensure optimal patient safety and welfare. To achieve this goal, the following guidelines should be adopted:

1. Only licensed nurses holding a current license to practice in Ohio should assume the role of a nurse employed by an ambulatory care practice who provides care in a setting in which they are not employed. Licensed nurses must function within their scope of practice as stated in the Ohio Revised Code 4723.01 and 4723.43 and according to the standards of nursing practice as set forth in the Ohio Administrative Code.

2. The ambulatory care practice- employed nurse must adhere to all facility policies and procedures regarding credentialing, quality assurance, competency assessment/annual review(s), fingerprinting or other security measures if required, employee health assessment, the delivery of patient care, documentation of that care, and communication with other members of the health care team.

3. Ambulatory care practice –employed advanced practice nurses must adhere to all facility policies and procedures regarding any additional credentialing requirements associated with advanced practice or prescriptive authority.

References:
ANA Code of Ethics
California Healthcare Foundation: RN Role Reimagined: How Empowering Registered Nurses Can Improve Primary Care. 2015.