

Marilyn J. Shirk, MN, RN, CNS-BC

Marilyn Shirk is the Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nursing Liaison at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. In this role, which she created in 1984, she provides support to nursing staff and other caregivers. She is consulted on a variety of work-related concerns, such as interpersonal and psychosocial issues, teambuilding, stress management, and ethical decision-making. In short, she describes her role as “caring for the caregivers.” She has been an active member of Cedars-Sinai’s Bioethics Committee for over 25 years, providing input on ethics education, policy and clinical consultation.

Marilyn’s professional experience includes pediatric nursing, inpatient adolescent psychiatry, outpatient adult mental health, crisis/emergency psychiatry and mental health consultation. Her BSN is from Mount Saint Mary’s College, Los Angeles and her MN in Psychiatric/Community Mental Health Nursing from UCLA. She is Board Certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS-BC). Marilyn has presented nationally on topics related to ethical decision-making, communication skills, collegial relationships, compassionate care and self-care. Her publications include articles on nursing ethics and subjects related to nurses’ self-care and development.