

Table 2

Historical Environment of the Codes of Ethics

A code of ethics is developed within the context of the healthcare environment and, at times, world events. This review is not intended to be a complete study of history, and the facts related to the year of passage of a code of ethics are cited only as a point of reference. The reader is encouraged to contemplate these events and consider what bearing the events may have had on each code of ethics.

Year	Environment and Events
1930s	The 1930s was marked by the Depression, unemployment, and a lack of healthcare coverage. This time period ushered in the beginning of insurance, marked by the beginning of private (prepaid hospital) insurance by Blue Cross. The Social Security Act of 1935 was passed without a health insurance component.
1950s–1960s	The healthcare industry advanced with computerization in billing functions and advancement in health technology such as the introduction of the pacemaker in 1952, the introduction of the heart-lung machine in 1953, and the first successful kidney transplant in 1954. ^a Ultrasound scanning was pioneered in Scotland; the Asian flu pandemic caused more than 1 million deaths worldwide. ^b The first nuclear reactor plant opened in Pennsylvania, which exposed people to the risk of radiation and made people vulnerable to manufactured forces beyond their control, in addition to the forces of nature. Individuals could control purchases, such as a home, food, or gas, but they could not control the forces of politics, nature, or technology. As we became more global and aware of what was happening to others on an immediate basis because of communication technologies, the pressure increased to protect the potentially vulnerable individual in the health information system and the information collected, used, and disseminated.
1970s	Cost containment in healthcare became a focus. The Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Act of 1973 was a federal law passed to encourage employers to develop and seek HMO initiatives. The first test-tube baby was born in England. Sweden became the first nation to ban aerosol sprays that were thought to damage earth's protective ozone layer. Britain launched the Motability program to provide cars for disabled people. ^c
1980s	The 1980s offered a time of regulation and deregulation as the federal government increased regulation on health reimbursement. The implementation of diagnosis related groups (DRGs) in 1983 changed the nature and importance of the medical record professional's role in a highly regulated government environment. The first laser eye surgery was performed in the United States. Crack (a derivative of cocaine) was available to the public. The antidepressant Prozac was introduced and quickly became the market leader for treating depression. Computer viruses started to surface. ^d
1990s	Beginning in 1994, a series of Physicians at Teaching Hospitals (PATH) Audits were conducted by the federal government to investigate improper billing by

Year	Environment and Events
	teaching hospitals and physicians. In December 1995, the University of Pennsylvania settled for 30 million dollars with the Department of Justice for questionable billing practices. Major privacy and security legislation, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), was enacted in 1996. The Institute of Medicine report <i>To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System</i> was released in 1999.
2004	In 2003, the government implemented the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA).
2009–2011	In 2009, the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), included provisions to advance the use of health information technology by including privacy, security, and electronic health record incentives.

^a Garber, K. M. “Eight Decades of Health Care: Hospitals & Health Networks: 80th Anniversary. The 1980s.” *Hospitals & Health Networks* 81, no. 7 (2007): 12–15.

^b The People History. “The Year 1957 from the People History.” Available at <http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1957.html> (accessed March 11, 2012).

^c The People History. “The Year 1977 from the People History.” Available at <http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1977.html> (accessed March 11, 2012).

^d The People History. “The Year 1988 from the People History.” Available at <http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1988.html> (accessed March 11, 2012).