

Practicing respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person is one of the most vital ethical principles related to professionalism within nursing practice. Dignity indicates humanity and their status as a human. It is a nurse's job to treat an individual as unique and to treat them with respect based on their individuality. Respecting human dignity allows the patient to feel valued, develop trust for the interdisciplinary team, and promotes positive patient outcomes through enhanced satisfaction. Human dignity holds strong significance in all academic fields, in which, high-quality care is portrayed to go hand-and-hand with the protection of patient dignity. As a nurse, respecting patient dignity is necessary as diseases threaten patient's worth due to their increased need to be taken care of and the fact of losing a sense of independence. Even though respecting human dignity is the foundation of professional nursing practice, it is found to be gradually diminishing throughout the industrialization based on a study done in Isfahan, Iran. The study was performed including inpatients located in public, private, and charity hospitals to evaluate nursing behaviors regarding the protection of patient's dignity through three measurable factors including relationship, privacy, and independence. In which the data was collected through a questionnaire including privacy, respecting patient's dignity, independence, and patient-nurse relationships. Following the study, based on data collected, it was found that patient dignity was respected to an acceptable level, but within public hospitals and emergency departments, respect of patient individuality was less favorable. Based on results within the study, patient-nurse relationships were scored mostly moderate rather than excellent, and patient's felt a lack of independence. "Nurses commonly justified their inappropriate behaviors toward patients by the existing problems in public hospitals. In fact, high number of patients and lack of coordination among the nursing, security and service staff can negatively affect patient satisfaction" (Raee et al., 2017). In order to improve nursing professionalism, policy makers and authorities were placing appropriate measures to overall improve respect for patient dignity. With the improvement of healthcare individuals respecting the worth of a patient, we would see a huge improvement between nurse-patient relationships, patient trustworthiness within the interdisciplinary team, reduced cost, staff motivation, and shorter hospitalizations due to improved mental health through an increased sense of a patient's worth. It is important to

consider patient dignity as a healthcare professional as the implementation of respect has the ability to alter a patient's outcome.

Raee, Z., Abedi, H., & Shahriari, M. (2017, April 19). *Nurses' commitment to respecting patient dignity*. *Journal of education and health promotion*. Retrieved February 26, 2023, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5433636/>