

ANA code of ethics #1. The nurse practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person.

An ethical issue we see in nursing today is not treating all patients the same, sometimes nurses beliefs are different from those of the patients and this can cause conflict. Along with this some cultures just don't have the same resources to healthcare. For example, in some American regions the average life expectancy varies by decades from one neighborhood to another. Another example is not serving the LGBTQ communities as equally as others. We can improve on these issues by coordinating cultural awareness measures to different communities. We need to also analyze statistics and see which populations are being underserved in order to correct the differences. Along with this we need to understand differences in perspectives, such as Asian cultures not wanting their older family members knowing how sick they are, as they believe this could make their older families give up. Another example is how some cultures find it disrespectful to call their elders Mr or Mrs. It is important to know these different perspectives prior to communicating with patients and their families. To fix these issues it is important to understand the difference in cultures and to analyze your feelings about that culture prior to giving care to that individual. It is important to break down any preconceived barriers we may have as nurses, in order to give patients the care they deserve. It is extremely beneficial to work for a place that incorporates all different cultures, beliefs, and genders of people.

Reference:

Norman, J., Ortiz, C., & Knapik, G. (2022, November 29). *Cultural competence in nursing*. NurseJournal. <https://nursejournal.org/resources/cultural-competence-in-nursing/>