

While each of the code of ethics is imperative for the fundamental values of nursing, in order to be able to give a true reflection on which American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses value best applies to you, you must first ask yourself what is of the greatest importance to you? One in particular stands out, “The nurse’s primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, community, or population” (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2017). If the primary goal is patient-centered care and you, as the nurse, continue to provide safe effective, quality care you can influence the patient, family, group, community, or population to feel respected and aide in the participation of their own care. Patient participation in their care encourages increased knowledge regarding their treatment and diagnosis, along with a more realistic expectation and understanding of the outcome. Unfortunately, we have all witnessed at some time or another that the patient is not the primary goal. As humans, we tend to bring implicit bias’s instead of following evidence-based practice which ultimately compromises quality patient care. This can lead to poor treatment, delays in diagnosis, and safety concerns. While there are some differing opinions on best choice of care, Hirpa et. al. (2020) found that “humanistic qualities of physicians, leading a healthy lifestyle, shared decision making (SDM) for medications and tests/procedures as well as knowledge about insurance coverage were the most frequently ranked choices” (Results section). Interestingly enough, the humanistic qualities that patients desire most are the ones that affect the outcome of care provided the greatest. We can educate and collaborate on the rest.

References

- Code of ethics for Nurses*. ANA. (2017, October 26) <https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethics-for-nurses/>
- Hirpa, M., Woreta, T., Addis, H., & Kebede, S. (2020). *What matters to patients? A timely question for value-based care*. PLOS ONE, 15(7), Article e0227845. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0227845>