

Vulnerable Population

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As a nurse we required to fill many roles. The role of a teacher, the role as a caregiver, and the role as a representative. These are but a few of the roles that grow into throughout our journey of nursing. All these roles have one thing in common, the need for knowledge of a wide variety of people and cultures. Without this knowledge we will not be able to give the highest quality of care to all of our patients. This paper will be focusing on what cultural competence is and the importance of pursuing cultural competence as a nurse.

A nurse will encounter an innumerable number of different peoples. To give them the highest quality of care the nurse must present competence of their beliefs and customs to not make them uncomfortable or do something against their beliefs. Cultural competence is not something learned overnight, rather, it is a lifelong adventure of committed learning (Kluwer, 2020 pp. 12-13). Cultural competence is “the elimination of ethnocentrism and an unconditional acceptance of cultural diversity unless the practice places another person in harm’s way” (Hood, 2018 p. 280). This paper will be focusing on the vulnerable population of the impoverished. The impoverished have some obvious obstacles when it comes to healthcare. They are at increased chances of contracting many different diseases and have lower general health. They can also encounter biases within the healthcare field as well. For example, they could have delayed medical attention or medication refills due to their poverty (Gallardo 2017). Even without the biases the impoverished have problems in the healthcare field. Some are not on good insurance plans and they have problems paying for prescriptions or even walk in clinic visits.

Poverty is something I know all too well. Growing up we did not have the most of money and it was difficult. So, I do sympathize with the impoverished population. This is one reason why I have chosen to go into the nursing field. It is my hope that I may be able to help those that are less fortunate and in need. To answer the question, “What are your feelings about delivering care to

homeless/impoverished populations?”, I can not wait to do so. As I said, I want to be there for people that do not have someone there for them and it feels as though they are drowning. That is my passion.

To conclude, nursing is an ever-evolving field of study that will take a lifetime to learn. We must be able adapt to each patient that we encounter and be accommodating of their beliefs and needs, especially when we do not agree with the beliefs. We should also leave biases out of our work. Whether they are impoverished, of a different race, or different culture. It is not right to determine who we will treat. We should treat anyone and everyone that needs it. We will be many things as nurses, judges should not be one of them.

References

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