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UNBIASED CARE IN PRISON SYSTEMS

Unbiased Care in Prison Systems

Darby McNeil

Lakeview College of Nursing

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In “Leddy & Pepper’s Professional Nursing”, author Lucy J. Hood discusses the Professional Nurse Contributions Model which focuses on many different qualities a nurse must possess in order to practice nursing professionally. One focus of this model is caring, compassion, and commitment. These three qualities are basic pillars for the nursing profession and important to represent within yourself as a nurse. Many nurses and nursing students will say that their desire to be a nurse was based off their desire to care for others. With that being said, many don’t think about the possibility of providing care to clients who they may not feel deserve to be given care. One must learn to be professional about their own feelings and not let that change the quality of care they provide, the compassion they show, or the commitment they have to their client, even in a prison setting.

Rozalia Biczo, (2017) explains what her day-to-day routines have been for the past 11 years that she has worked as a prison nurse. She knows, that unlike most nursing careers her day will have many different road blocks that she must deal with and prepare for. She must go through security upon entering the prison and put any metal garments through an x-ray machine. Also, she must prepare herself meals for throughout her shift, because once she has entered the prison she is not allowed to leave until her shift ends. Biczo explains how hard it can be to provide service to the inmates due to the government fiscal constraints that are in place, even though it is government policy to provide free healthcare to all inmates (2017). It is important to note this constraint can make things extremely difficult considering many new inmates have illnesses or diseases that have not been treated in a long time due to the inmates lack of healthcare before entering the system. She finishes the article discussing how patient safety

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should be of utmost importance and that with an increased budget for healthcare this would be much easier to achieve.

With a better understanding of what a career as a prison nurse is like, one can reflect on how they believe they would handle these situations. Two major ethical issues that I believe play an important role in prison nursing are beneficence, do only good, and justice, treating people fairly (Hood, 2018). When providing care to inmates, nurses may feel like the inmate does not deserve the care and compassion they are being given, but it is important within the nursing practice to always do good for your patient and to treat people in a fair way, regardless of the situation. With that being said, some may want to know what crime the inmate has been incarcerated for. I believe if I were in this situation I would not want to know the crime the inmate had committed. I think this would help me provide holistic care for my patient and focus on their well-being, rather than their past.

Learning about prison nursing, and the different tasks and obstacles one faces in this career is important to learning how to care for others in an unbiased way. Regardless of a person's past they still deserve care, compassion, and commitment from their medical team. Through the process of cultural competence nurses must learn how to develop and build on their skills and knowledge in order to care for groups that they do not understand or necessarily agree with. Nurses must examine, build awareness, learn about, and interact with people from different cultures or backgrounds in order to identify their best path of care for their clients (Hood, 2018).

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## References

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