

Cultural Implications in Nursing

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“I have neither given nor received, nor will I tolerate others’ use of unauthorized aid.”

Cultural Implications in Nursing

Cultural competence in nursing is the ability to provide the best care for each patient and meet their needs to the best of your ability regardless of their cultural beliefs, values, sexual preference or background (Clarke, 2017). As a healthcare worker, I feel that each patient that you come in contact with should be treated with respect and compassion whether or not your beliefs are the same as theirs or much different. People may have a different set of criteria and various preferences regarding their health and health care needs, depending on their cultures. The meaning of illness and treatment are rooted deeply in particular cultural beliefs and values (Clarke, 2017). This is why it is important to be mindful as well as respectful towards the person that you are providing care to. According to an article titled *Cultural Competence*, achieving a diverse body of nursing students, and thereby a diverse nursing workforce, is essential to the application of culturally competent nursing care (Smith, 2017).

As humans, I feel that it is in our nature to have bad feelings towards things or people's actions that we feel is morally wrong. I have the upmost respect for other individuals and their own personal beliefs or preferences, however, I feel that it could be difficult to care for a patient that has committed a crime that goes against my own personal beliefs. For example, if I was caring for a patient who was in prison for harming a child in any way, I think I would have a difficult time providing the best care for that patient. In those certain situations I think it would be in my best interest to not know the crime that was committed. Although I would still perform the best care to my patient, it would be difficult for me to get past the patient's harsh actions.

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Caring for the homeless or impoverished population in my opinion would be emotionally difficult yet rewarding. Knowing that I could make a difference in someone else's life that has nothing else makes me feel good. I have a passion for helping others and knowing that someone is suffering emotionally, financially, or physically, and that I can lend a helping hand, or even be a listening ear gives me joy. I feel as though I would have a different connection with this patient versus someone that I know has family or friends to help them out.

References

Clarke, S. (2017). Cultural Congruent Care: A Reflection on Patient Outcome. *Journal of Healthcare Communications*, 02(04). doi: 10.4172/2472-1654.100092

Smith, L. S. (2017). Cultural competence. *Nursing*, 47(10), 18–20. doi: 10.1097/01.nurse.0000524770.18720.96