

Vulnerable Population of Prisoners in Health Care

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

Cultural competence is a set of values, beliefs, principles, behaviors, attitudes, and structures that allows for work with cross-culture to be efficient. Cultural competence is important in health care because in America there is a wide variety of people with different beliefs, values, and culture. A nurse needs to have their own set of values and beliefs to be able to properly care for someone that might not have the same beliefs. This is because when the nurse has their own beliefs and values it is easier for the nurse to understand that patients are not just going to change their beliefs because the nurse believes that it is wrong. The nurse understanding and respecting the patient's beliefs it makes the patient feel like the nurse is caring and allowing the patient to feel more comfortable and the communication process will become smoother. The client will have more trust for a nurse that has respect for them. A vulnerable population is a population of people that are in groups with people that are like them. For example, elderly, young, mentally ill, non-English speaking Americans to name a few (CareCentrix, 2017). The vulnerable population that I chose to advance my knowledge is the vulnerable population of prisoners. I feel that when prisoners need health care people shy away from wanting to help and be a part of their stay or treatment because they feel nervous when they are around them. This is because there is always an officer with them, and they are usually handcuffed to the bed. A prisoner also is not able to give consent and more than likely the prison guard with them will make decisions for them and they do not always have the best interests for the prisoners (Kelly, 2019). They want to get the prisoner back into the prison as quick as possible. My bias is that the prisoners might not undergo the same treatment that a person that is not in prison will get because people might feel afraid to go in and do procedure, bathe, or etc. on the prisoner. Sometimes people might feel as if the person doesn't deserve to be cared for

properly because of what they think they may or may not have done. I also feel that when a prisoner comes in people start assuming what a prisoner has done and start judging the patient without understanding what crime a prisoner has committed. People always assume the worst for people, especially prisoners. Honestly, I would want to know what crime the person has committed because I would want to know if I should always bring someone with me in the room even if an officer is in the room as well. This will help by allowing better quality of care for the prisoner. For example, if a prisoner is in for murdering multiple women and you are a woman you might try and bring a male nurse in with you to help draw the attention away from you and it will help you feel more comfortable the more people in the room with you. A women nurse would not want to go into that room alone for the safety of that nurse. If a prisoner is in prison because they got pulled over and the officers found marijuana in their car. The nursing staff might feel safer by knowing they aren't in as much danger as if it was a serial killer. The nurse might still not want to go in the room alone, but you know you want to have to use as much caution as you would for a serial killer. I just feel like it is better for the nursing staff to know what crime they committed for the safety of them and allows them to ensure better care by knowing.

References

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