

Vulnerable Populations in Nursing

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

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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 culture, values, beliefs, 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. Each individual may have different criteria or various preferences regarding their health and health care needs, depending on their culture and beliefs. The meaning of illness and treatment are deeply rooted in particular cultural beliefs and values (Clarke, 2017). When caring for different people it is important to be mindful of the different cultures as well as showing respect and empathy toward your client. 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 base judgement or sometimes make false accusations about a person that does something different than us or something that we do not necessarily agree with. 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 client. In those certain situations I think it would be in my best interest to not know the crime that my client had committed. Although I would still perform the best care to my client, it would be difficult for me to overlook the client's harsh actions. As a nurse it is our job to identify and be aware of our biases. When you are aware of your biases, it helps

you to be able to perform quality care to your client without treating them differently because of your own beliefs.

References

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