

Melanie Ann Estonina
Clinical 292 Foundations
Olubukola Popoola
02/20/23

Journal #3

My greatest challenge when working with my patient was the language barrier. My patient spoke very little English, her son was present during her stay and served as her translator and he still did not speak the best English. This was not only my main challenge but also the main bioethical concern during my clinical. There were no translator machines, or translators available on the oncology unit due to lack of supply to meet the demand and lack of availability. This serves as a bioethical concern because there is a chance the patient's needs may not be met completely, and that the patient may not completely understand her care plan, or any procedures or medications being given to her. Therefore, a main patient right of autonomy was being violated because she could not necessarily have a say in her care especially because her son was not fluent in English and served as the only un-reliable means to translating and communicating. My greatest accomplishment was that despite the language barrier, through nonverbal communication I was able to gain the trust of the patient to perform my head-to-toe assessment and medication administration to her (she refused the injection from me, but I was still able to give her other medication).

The technical skills I used were my 3 checks, and 6 rights before medication administration, bed making skills, nonverbal communication to soothe and create trust due to the language barrier and performing my head-to-toe assessment properly. I demonstrated planning and intervention of cultural, holistic competent care for my patient by respect her desire to want the more experienced nurse to administer her subcutaneous injection, and by respecting her privacy when she used the bathroom to respect her autonomy. I demonstrated interpersonal communication skills with the interdisciplinary health care team by communicating with the nurse of my tasks to complete, the times of the tasks, and by communicating her the completion of the tasks and the vital signs I took for her. This made my shift flow smoothly because we worked together to be successful during our shift. I demonstrated interpersonal communication skills with classmates and my instructor by communicating information my instructor wanted me to pass on to my classmates, and by continuously updating my instructor on the status of my patient and when I was ready to complete tasks.

“Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind” *1 Peter 3:8*. I used this bible verse because despite differences in culture and the language barrier, I reminded myself that God taught us to have sympathy, and empathy towards the difficulties another may be facing. God taught us to be selfless and kind towards others so that we may find unity within our acts of kindness and love. This bible verse gave me the patience necessary to navigate a successful clinical with the language barrier. I showed an initiative to pray by offering to pray at the beginning of our clinical. I demonstrated a willingness to help others, care for others, and advocate and care for culturally diverse patients by asking my nurse to assist me in having a more successful experience communicating with the language barrier. I also demonstrated this by helping the nurse with all her patients, advocating for her patients needs and by helping the nurse meet her patients' needs if it was in my scope of practice.