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| Nursing Leadership 2117 |
| Nursing Advocacy |
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There are many reason being a nursing advocate is important. Firstly, it is included in the American Nursing Association's Code of Ethics. Secondly, being a nursing advocate can help prevent medical errors in the health care field. Lastly, by showing advocacy skills the nurse is able to develop trust and rapport with the patient. Nursing Advocacy is defined as the act of promoting, supporting, and/or defending a proposal or cause(Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary).

The American Nursing Association promotes high standards for nursing practice. Provision 3 states "The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient (Code of Ethics)." Therefore it is expected for the nursing to act in favor of the patient when their rights, health, or safely is at risk. It is important for the nurse to be adequately educated in order to know when the patient health may be at risk. The nurse must advocate through knowledge, action, and voice (O'Connor).

Being a nursing advocate can help reduce medical errors. Like mentioned earlier, the nurse needs to have quality education in order to be a successful advocate for patients. For example, if a physician gives you an order for a patient to receive medication and a mistake is made with the order, such as, the wrong dose. It is important for that nurse to know the recommended dose for that medication. Even just check with a charge nurse to review the order if the nurse has any doubt that is still being a patient advocate. However, personal ability, fear, and a lack of confidence can affect a nurse from advocating successfully (O'Connor).

It is very important for the nurse to develop a trusting relationship and rapport with their patient as soon as possible. Advocacy is caring, and showing the patient that they are cared for can commence that relationship. This level of care can be displayed by having one-on-one encounters, educating, and providing a supportive environment for the patient(O'Connor). Patients and families can be very nervous and scared when is the hospital or when having medical problem. The nurse displaying signs of compassion and caring can help relieve some of those nerves. Knowing someone is looking out for their best interest can reduce stress for the patient and their family.

Being a nurse takes compassion. With compassion should come advocacy. However, sometimes it is difficult for a nurse to be a successful advocate. There can be negative outcomes when a nurse advocated for the patient. Such as, a threat to their reputation or access to a promotion or advancement (O'Connor). An example of this would be, a nurse noticed a fellow colleague not providing sufficient care to the patient which could cause patient harm and reporting it. This could give that nurse a reputation as a trouble maker, when really the nursing was just doing what is expected. It is important that other nurses and nurse leaders show support for nurses advocating for patients(O'Connor).

Works Cited

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3. O'Connor,M.(2018). Advocacy: Perspectives of Future Nurse Administrators