

Nursing Values and Philosophy in the Correctional Setting

This essay examines nursing philosophy and its relationship with individual values.

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Introduction:

Working in a correctional setting as a nurse presents unique challenges and opportunities. It requires adherence to professional nursing standards, often in contexts that can challenge personal values. This reflective essay explores my core values aligning with nursing standards, how these values inform my nursing philosophy, how my philosophy shapes my communication, and how the correctional setting influences my nursing philosophy.

Core Personal Values Aligning with Professional Nursing Standards:

In line with the nursing profession's ethical guidelines, my personal values of empathy, integrity, respect for human dignity, and advocacy are pivotal. These values align with the American Nurses Association's (ANA) Code of Ethics (2015), promoting the welfare of all individuals, irrespective of their legal status. In a correctional setting, it's essential to remember that offenders deserve quality healthcare, underscoring the necessity for empathy, dignity, and advocacy.

Individual Core Values Informing the Nursing Philosophy:

My nursing philosophy is rooted in holistic, patient-centered care. I believe in treating each individual with respect, dignity, and care, irrespective of their past actions or current status. This is particularly pertinent in a correctional setting where stigma and bias could hinder patient care. My core values inspire me to provide equal, quality healthcare to every patient, ensuring their physical, mental, and social well-being (Smith, 2005).

Nursing Philosophy Shaping Communication with Staff and Offenders in the Correctional Setting:

My nursing philosophy guides how I interact with both staff and offenders. By advocating for patient care, I ensure that the healthcare needs of offenders are communicated and addressed efficiently. My approach promotes an environment

of respect and understanding, fostering better patient outcomes, and building stronger, more collaborative relationships with other healthcare staff (Harmon, 2017).

Correctional Setting Influencing Individual Nursing Philosophy:

Working in a correctional setting has significantly shaped my nursing philosophy. It has reinforced the importance of patient advocacy and equitable healthcare, irrespective of an individual's legal status. It has heightened my understanding of the social determinants of health and the need to address health disparities within this population (Dumont et al., 2012).

Conclusion:

Working in a correctional setting is a continual reminder of the foundational nursing values: empathy, integrity, and respect for human dignity. It reinforces my belief in patient advocacy and has helped shape my philosophy to ensure patient-centered, holistic care in any setting, regardless of its challenges.

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