The Value of the Caring Moment in Patient Advocacy

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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE
To explore the experience of nursing students caring advocacy during the therapeutic relationship with their patients in the clinical setting. The 4 basics of Human-to-Human Caring include healing processes, interpersonal maintenance of relationship, the caring moment and awareness of healing (Ozan and Okumas, 2015).

BACKGROUND
Quality practice should include advocacy as an integral component of patient safety (ANA. n.d)
Nursing students
- May not understand how to value caring through patient advocacy
- Have low levels of self esteem and may feel they do not have the necessary experience or education to advocate for their patients
- May not be aware of the extent that they advocate for their patients
Advocacy is the pillar of nursing.

METHOD OF INQUIRY

This qualitative study is based on Dr. Jean Watson’s theory of human caring. Watson’s theoretical framework was used to capture the essence of participants' experience during clinical orientation.

SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS
- A purposive sample of 26 senior level baccalaureate nursing students from the Northeastern United States

DATA ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS:
- Occurred concurrently throughout the process
- Application of Jean Watson’s theory of Human caring
- Rich data was unearthed as participants clearly described moments in their relationship with their patient when their presence communicated advocating for their patients and their family

PROTECTION OF PARTICIPANTS
- IRB approval obtained from Molloy College
- Confidentiality was assured.

PHENOMENON OF INTEREST

The experience of caring advocacy as experienced by student nurses

Research Question:
When you are a student nurse, where does advocacy begin?

Survey of statements
- Describe a caring moment you have experienced in the clinical setting.
- Identify the phase of the therapeutic relationship were you perceived the caring moment happened
- Identify specific actions, if any, that you took

EMERGING THEMES:

Communication
- “Motioned for my hand” “Squeezed my hand” “Going into the patient’s room to talk to them…check on them” “I started to sing to the baby and eventually she fell asleep” “Informed her she was beautiful and helped her gain confidence” “Opened up”

Relationship
- “We banded and I kept them informed on their status” “We worked together over the course of her stay” “Shift from self to patient” “We got so close in a few hours and she was grateful”

Advocacy
- “I strive to build a good relationship with all my patients and listen to all their concerns and stories” “Help the patient open up about feelings” “Help them work toward getting better” “After seeing how the patient’s face lit up when the nurse gave her some positive reinforcement I continued to do the same”

Presence
- “I handed them tissues that I had in my pocket and let them react. I felt a connection with both of us” “I could sense my presence was calming… I think my presence and persistence in talking to him helped him to feel comfortable around me and helped him open up” “She was crying…and she didn’t say anything. I just held her hand until she relaxed. She just said thank you for being here…” “It turned out she didn’t really need anything, she just wanted to be by herself. I stayed and held a cold cloth to her head”