

Integrating Personal Values and Beliefs in Nurse Profession

Values and beliefs are convictions of what an individual considers to be right, desirable and good. Beliefs and values are stable and enduring, and they require prolonged social and educational processes to change. Beliefs and values are not ideals that are specific to situations; they are relevant to all situations (Moyo et.al., 2017). It would be impossible for one to believe the necessity of honesty in school and doubt it at home. The stability and general relevance of a belief and professed values set them aside from other dispositions like attitudes and opinions.

An individual's personal beliefs and professional values in healthcare influence the outlook that a practitioner has in the delivery of health care and in making of clinical decisions. A clear understanding of these values for individuals across healthcare professions is necessary in helping to improve patient-centered decision making. Some of the important values and beliefs identified across healthcare practitioners and professionals include: authority; critical thinking; hedonism; morality; spirituality; professionalism; benevolence; and security among many others. Some beliefs and personal values can be integrated into a single framework and be used to assess personal and professional values of healthcare practitioners across several different professional groups. This is important as it can greatly aid a practitioner in the discovery of a practitioner's awareness of their values helping them to negotiate more patient-centered decisions values and beliefs (Altun, 2002).

Common values frameworks in healthcare support initiatives and strategies to shared education strategies on values and this help in improvement of inter-professional teamwork and decision making. One such framework is known as the Schwartz's framework or model. This model brings together 11, healthcare practitioner value types and highlights compatibility and conflicting relations amongst them. Some of the most relevant values to healthcare practitioners