

# Be Aware - “No, Run, & Tell”

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One hospital was accused by the family members that a patient was exposed in training some medical interns on catheterization. The family member recalled that her 85 years old mother was tortured by unnecessary demonstrations before she passed away. They sued the hospital, doctors, and nurses for negligence as well as involuntary manslaughter. The family claimed that their mother was tortured to death by this practice. Another case involved an unwed mother undergoing abortion. When she was readying for the examination, six interns were allowed in. She was so ashamed and asked them to leave, but the physician-in-charge allowed them to continue. This patient felt her privacy was violated so she demanded the doctor and hospital to apologize and compensate for her suffering. The above cases exposed the conflicts between patients, patients' family and clinical practice with interns. We can see there are different points of view between patients' family and medical staff (Ching-Yi Liu, 2007).

## **Respect Different Points of View Regarding the Physical Bodily Boundaries**

“Physical body boundaries” refers to the limit that one can endure by others' touching. It depends on individuality with regards to time, age and sex. One can decide one's “physical body boundaries” as a privacy right issue. No one can question other's physical body boundaries. School teachers always remind students to be aware and respect the physical body boundaries and privacy. As a teacher for the nursing department, I always ask my students how they should perform the task of changing clothes in the dormitory at the very first class. I want to understand



**While teacher Jiang Jiin-Ling (left 2) instructs nursing students she always notify patient and family members in advance and ask for permission.**

students' view regarding physical body boundaries and make them aware of the definition of body boundaries. A person is respected with respect to body autonomy will also respect other's body boundaries.

### **Ask for Permission Prior to Any Action and Treat Patients with Warmth**

If the teachers only concern with the instructions and neglect to cultivate humanistic spirits, then more than likely they underestimate the values of social influences, mental, and environment impact on medical treatment. Not only is it hard to understand the needs of patients, but also easy for medical disputes. Teachers can inform patients and their family members regarding the participation of interns in the course of treatment, giving them ample time to consider and cooperate, and the opportunity to ask questions if they choose to participate. For patients who cannot decide on their own,

their family members or the persons with the Power of Attorney should be contacted. In addition, the hospital can increase training among the medical personnel and patients and families for better understanding and cooperation. (Huang-Hsuan Keng, 2018)

My experience in leading the interns practicing in the hospital was to appreciate and promote the interaction with patients and family members, so the atmosphere would be respectful. For example, if normally the curtain is down, an intern should ask for permission before entering, "I am teacher Jiang Jiin-Ling, and may I come in now?" When diaper change for patients in coma, explain to patients what needs to be done and try not to expose patient's privacy. So patient and family would feel that they are protected and respected even when they are feeling helpless. With diseased patients, we still emphasize cleansing, comfort, and warmth. If it is intended for clinical instruction, we would obtain patients and family members permission ahead of time.

As a clinical internship teacher, I insist my teaching and student's learning should not invade patients' privacy. We must protect patients' rights for privacy so students can learn from this. Through respecting each other, students can learn from teachers about the respect and moral standard. Thus, when leading the interns, we should enforce the concept, "Who is sick with what illness? What are their fears?" Students should not be too concerned with the types of technique or the application methods. We should not let technology dictates how we learn and should be more concerned with patients feeling the warmth during treatment.

### **Also Teach Nursing Students to Protect Themselves**

When we teach nursing students for patients' privacy, we also need to teach how to protect their own privacy. One day a student assisted an old man for cleansing and was inappropriately touched. She felt so uncomfortable and disgusted, but she still helped him finish cleaning and then told her teacher. The teacher immediately notified the head nurse, and instructed the student should use calm and steady voice to say "NO" at that moment and push away the hand to stop him and ask for help. Also, let others help finish her undone task. This type of situation once occurred with a male student nurse when they were alone behind a curtain. A female patient grasped his hand to place on her body. This student then reported to me after the incident.

Thus, I would remind nursing students when caring for patients behind a curtain; they need to have other medical staff or family members on the side. When one faces this dangerous situation, remember these three words: "No, Run, and Tell" to protect one self.