

Topic 5 DQ 2

Discuss the importance of advocacy as it pertains to client care. What is the nurse's role in client advocacy? Describe a situation in which you were involved with client advocacy. Explain what the advocacy accomplished for the client, and what the repercussions would have been if the client would not have had an advocate.

Answer:

Advocacy ensures that everyone's voices are heard on the issues and concerns that are important for them. A nurse's role is to protect and promote their patient's rights and make sure their views and wishes are considered while making all the decisions in their lives. Nurses have to be always be present for their patients, give proper care, provide education, ensure safety, offer them resources and listen to your patients.

One day I was assigned to a patient who was mechanically ventilated and I was told that this patient is confused, verbally abusive, combative and screams. When I introduced myself to the patient, I asked him if he was okay and he looked at me as if he wanted to say something to me and went closer to him and he was able to mouth words and said, "help me". I assured him that I was there for him and I will help him. Later after assessing the patient, I found out that patient was totally alert and oriented and in excruciating pain. He had the worst pressure ulcers and he got them from sitting in the wheelchair all day long while his wife is at work. They had no family and no help and this wife just wanted the patient to live but the patient did not have any desire to live anymore he wanted the ventilator taken off. The wife then came to visit and the patient pointed at her and said to me mouthing his words that "I am in this condition because of her." The wife started crying and I took her aside and talked the wife and told her how the patient felt. She said, "I know his wishes but he's my only family and I can't let him make this decision." I contacted social work, palliative care, doctors team assigned to the patient. Everything was noted in patient's chart. The same day patient had dialysis and the dialysis nurse entered in patient's chart that patient was alert and oriented as well. I contacted the dialysis nurse to confirm because all other charting indicated the patient was confused. I made the doctors come and assess the patient and, the patient was able to