

Discussion: Patients Preferences and Decision Making

Changes in culture and technology have resulted in patient populations that are often well informed and educated, even before consulting or considering a healthcare need delivered by a health professional. Fueled by this, health professionals are increasingly involving patients in treatment decisions. However, this often comes with challenges, as illnesses and treatments can become complex.

What has your experience been with patient involvement in treatment or healthcare decisions?

In this Discussion, you will share your experiences and consider the impact of patient involvement (or lack of involvement). You will also consider the use of a patient decision aid to inform best practices for patient care and healthcare decision making.

Initial Post

In the healthcare environment of today, healthcare professionals must engage patients in their care. Any patient who feels that their healthcare providers engage and communicate well with them while treating them with respect and fairness is more active in their health care (Melnik & Fineout-Overholt, 2018). Healthcare professionals who involve patients in their decision-making process influence patients as consumers of healthcare. Whether the involvement