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Transcultural Nursing Theory: Cultural Competence in the Delivery of Healthcare Services

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Internationally employed nursing staff are required to deliver care to highly diverse populations of patients with culture-specific needs.   Nurses must develop cultural competence to accurately assess their patient and develop appropriate interventions in thier plans of care to optimize outcomes. Culturally competent care cannot be provided unless nurses recognize how cultural values, attitudes, and beliefs impact on the patient and family's response to care. Competence may be manifested explicitly as sensitivity, knowledge, and skill; with culture in focus, and the domains of culture may be presented specifically as cultural values, religion, and health beliefs, among others. There are many theories, models and views related to cultural competence, and healthcare leaders are challenged to ensure that culturally appropriate scope of care is delivered.   This challenge has escalated as international accreditation standards focus on the patient experience (satisfaction with care) and awareness of how the patient and family values, attitudes, and beliefs impact care and outcomes. In the international setting, it is important to employ experienced and knowledgeable staff from diverse backgrounds when producing cultural competency-focused learning assessments, outcomes, and exercises. Adult learning is a dynamic process that must incorporate interactive experiences to break through administrative limitations to inform clinical practical skills. Educators related to this subject matter must be empowering and engaging. Healthcare institutions must help develop cultural competence education and standards to ensure that nursing staff accurately access, develop, and implement effective nursing interventions.

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Notes:

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