

Communication skill in health care professionals

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ABSTRACT

A healthcare professional (HCP) or any professional, for that matter needs to have effective interpersonal skills. These are the skills one relies on most in order to have successful interaction with other people. These skills, which include tactfulness, courtesy, respect, empathy, genuineness, appropriate self-disclosure, and assertiveness, usually do not stand alone but rather exist in concert with one another.

In the health care setting communication between the HCP and the patient (as well as the patient's family) that takes place to advance the patient's well-being and care is known as therapeutic communication The Therapeutic communication has three main purposes:

1. To collect healthcare-related information about the patient.

2. To provide feedback in the form of healthcare–related information, education, and training.

3. To assess the patient's behavior and, when appropriate, to modify that behavior.

The standard of care demanded at all points of patient contact requires that you effectively communicate with patients and other members of the healthcare team. You should also know how to work efficiently and productively as a member of the healthcare team to ensure the highest level of effectiveness in serving patients' needs.

As an allied health professional in the 21st century, you must not only possess the clinical skills necessary to providing excellent patient care, but you must also master the communication skills essential to ensuring positive health outcomes for patients.

Objective:

• Describe the importance of effective communication skills.

• Understanding of non-verbal and verbal communication in health care settings.

• Identify appropriate practices for effective communication with patients and other health care providers.

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