

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.

To Prepare:

- Review the Resources and reflect on a time when you experienced a patient being brought into (or not being brought into) a decision regarding their treatment plan.
- Review the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute's Decision Aids Inventory at <https://decisionaid.ohri.ca/> (<https://decisionaid.ohri.ca/>) .
 - Choose "For Specific Conditions," then Browse an alphabetical listing of decision aids by health topic.
- After you have chosen a topic (or condition) and a decision aid, consider if social determinants of health (<https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/Library/sdoh>) were considered in the treatment plan Social determinants of health can affect a patient's decision as these are conditions in the patient's environment, such as economic stability, education access, health care access and quality, neighborhood, and social and community context.
- **NOTE:** To ensure compliance with HIPAA rules, please DO NOT use the patient's real name or any information that might identify the patient or organization/practice.

BY DAY 3 OF WEEK 11

Post a brief description of the situation you experienced and explain how incorporating or not incorporating patient preferences, social determinants of health

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 of patients in their care is for procedures, informative, or financial reasons, it provides for more engagement and trust. Thus, making patients freer and more interested in becoming well-informed and confident enough to manage their health appropriately.

Experience and Outcome

While working in labor and delivery years ago, a 23 years old pregnant patient at 37weeks gestation came into the unit painfully bleeding. This patient in question has been trying to get pregnant for two years with no luck but rather miscarriages. This pregnancy was a result of in-vitro fertilization (IVF). Since she was bleeding, her case became emergent that required a cesarean section (c-section). Since the matter was urgent, the surgeon briefly explained the surgery to the patient, without disclosing the option of hysterectomy (removal of the womb) if bleeding persists. The surgical consent forms were signed, and the patient headed back to the operating room. In the operating room, the patient underwent general anesthesia, which made her unconscious during the surgery. During the procedure, the patient started to bleed, and in order to save her life, the surgeon was obligated to intervene to do what he felt was in the best interest in preserving the patient's life. The patient ended up having her womb removed to normalize her bleed. The surgeon made it through the surgery but felt a pang of guilt in him that God will not forgive him and that he should have died instead of the patient getting a hysterotomy. The