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*THE NURSE TRIBE*

*By Arnelle Martinson*



     A discourse community is a group of people who have the same interest and have a way of communication.  There are three main points a discourse community has. The first point is to have common goals that they would like to achieve. The second thing that is involved in the community is having a method or unique way of communication among participants. Lastly, in a discourse community you must provide information to members within the group.

    The discourse community that I aspire to be within is the nursing community. I would like to become a registered nurse after I finish my bachelor's degree in college. In the nursing field it has the same characteristics that a discourse community requires. To begin with, the nursing community has the  common goals of caring for patients, making sure that every patient is treated well individually and completing the tasks that are required during their 12 hour shifts. According to the American nursing association it states that, “through long-term monitoring a patient's behavior and knowledge-based expertise nurses are the best place to take an all-encompassing view of a patient's well-being.” This text clearly shows that the main goal of  nurses is to make sure that a patient is taken care of and not harmed. In an interview with a nursing student Christel Dobredov states that inside of the nursing community “You must value the life of a patient. Always patient first. Also patient info must be kept confidential based on the law HIPAA.” Her experience as a nursing student tells us that nurses highly value their patient. Basically, if you don't like caring or taking care of others you should not join the nursing community.

***Our Communication***

      In the nursing community they must communicate with each other by making sure all nurses are on the same page about the patient. Nurses must speak to one another with respect and understanding. The University of Mexico nursing article  states that “  Nurses act as the hub of communication, relaying and interpreting information between physicians, caregivers, family members and patients. The ability to establish effective communication in nursing is imperative to providing the best care and patient outcomes possible”. This comes to show that as a nurse you must cooperate with others  as a team and help each other out. The key to being a nurse is teamwork and communication because all nurses must work together to ensure that a patient is receiving the best care possible.

***Resources***

   In today’s society, technology has been very beneficial in the nursing community. It is used in every part of the nursing field. In the early days and ages, nurses documented all of the patients' information and diagnoses handwritten. Today, computer technology and monitoring systems are where patients medical charts are located. The patient care documentation is called EHRs and EMRs. According to an article titled “What technology Do Registered Nurses Use? By Beth Greenwood” it states  “A nurse who uses an EMR may document medication dosages, administration, dressing changes and other treatments in the computer, rather than on paper.” This is significant because it describes what the EMR documentation entails about the patients treatments, medication,needs and food. Another type of technology that nurses use in the community is monitoring systems. Monitoring systems tell the patient's heart rate.blood pressure,sugar,etc.

***Rules and Regulation***

        In the nursing community there are rules and regulations that must be followed, if not you can be at risk of losing your job. In an interview with ,Christel Dobresdov who is a nursing student, she states “As a nurse you must follow the Five Rights which are right time,right dose, right route, right injection and right medication”  These five rights are very important because when taking care of a patient for example and they need a blood transfusion during surgery a nurse must make sure they are giving the right blood that matches the patient. There is no room for mistakes as a nurse when dealing with a patient. You can not put a patient's life in jeopardy. That is why you must know the five rights before taking any precautions.Another important rule is HIPPA. HIPPA stands for health insurance portability and accountability act. This law means that all patients information must be kept confidential.

***Our Clothing***

       The common uniform that  nurses must wear in a health/medical field are called scrubs. Scrubs are a necessary component to being a nurse because it helps patients to identify your occupation. Scrubs are very essential because it helps medical doctors to pinpoint bodily fluids and contaminants that a patient may have. It also helps reduce bacteria from spreading. Lastly, scrubs are very inexpensive and are easy to replace and access.

***Tools***

       In spite of clothing appearance, nurses must have four essential tools that benefit them in their career. The first essential tool a nurse must always carry around with them at all times is a stethoscope. A stethoscope is very necessary in the nursing community because it helps nurses listen to sounds inside of the body. It is mainly used to listen to the patient's heart, lungs and the intestinal tract. The second tool that nurses use on a daily basis is diagnostic tests. Diagnostic tests help nurses to be able to point out the microorganisms that cause infectious diseases. Thirdly, the next equipment nurses must use are blood pressure monitors. Blood pressure monitors are significant because it helps nurses to check heart rate and vital signs. The last tool needed as a nurse is called surgical instruments. Surgical instruments are used in the operating room where surgeries take place. Some of these surgical instruments include scissors, scalpels,retractors etc.

       In all, the nursing community is a place where you can make a big difference in someone's life. It may be hectic at times when you are tending to different patients and staying on your feet all the time, but in the end you leave a positive effect on all your patients. Also in the nursing community it has a competitive salary and a flexible work schedule which is a big plus.  From the outside looking in, you may think that all nurses do is give medicine and treat wounds. However, the best part about being a nurse is making a great connection with your patients and leaving them happy and satisfied.