Compassionate care : LGBTQIA+ Context

Amanda Thawnarain | Professor Charlene Downing

16TH October 2024



Overview of the study: Nursing students caring practices in caring for LGBTQIA + individuals in a private hospital setting



Health Disparities faced by LGBTQIA+

Physical Health Issues

Higher Rates of Mental Health Issues

Barriers to Care

Limited access to gender affirming care





Critical Principles of Watson's

Theory of Human Caring

Caring as a moral ideal: Watson's theory emphasises the ethical and compassionate nature of caring, focused on respect for human dignity.

Human-to-human connection: Building authentic, empathetic relationships is central to providing compassionate care.

Holistic care: Understanding patients' physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs.



Applying Best Practices | Recommendations for compassionate, inclusive nursing practice LGBTQIA+ context

- Inclusive, affirming Communication:
 - Avoid Assumptions
 - Ask for Pronouns

(Garcia & Nguyen, 2020; Lambda Legal, 2019).

Culturally Competent Care:

- Knowledge of LGBTQIA+ culture and identities
- Skills training
- Attitudinal changes

(Jones et al., 2020; The Fenway Institute, 2015).

Applying Best Practices | Recommendations for compassionate, inclusive nursing practice Care LGBTQIA+ context

Creating Safe Spaces/Welcoming environments (OUT LGBT Well-being, 2016; Triangle Project, 2018).

Inclusive Policies
 (American Nurses Association, 2015).



Support systems (Triangle Project, 2018)

Respecting privacy and confidentiality (OUT LGBT Well-being, 2016)

Continuous Improvement Through Compassionate Action

Addressing Implicit Bias:

Engaging in self-reflection to mitigate biases ensures equitable, compassionate care (Suen et al., 2020).

Ongoing Education and Feedback:
Continuous education on LGBTQIA+ health issues and gathering patient feedback are essential for improving care quality (Baldwin et al., 2017; Health4Men, 2018).





Thank you



