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 **Patient Education Tool**

 King University

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 NSG 3310: Professional Dimensions of Nursing

 Professor Hutchinson

 09/15/2024

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 I chose the topic of how to change a bedbound hospice patient because it is an activity that

most family members are intimidated performing. Having a teaching tool that is visual and

written down gives the patient and family something they can refer to if they get confused.

The Humanistic Nursing Theory is directly related to families caring for their hospice patient.

“Humans are valued as unique individuals; human beings have a responsibility to each other.”

(Wolf and Bailey 2013 Pg 64.).

 The experience of creating a teaching tool was illuminating. In my research, I found it

difficult to find photographs of wounds on people with dark skin. Most of the photographs of

skin lesions were on Caucasian people. When I typed in “wounds on dark skin people “, a

photograph of a hippopotamus came up.

Then challenges I experienced were across the project. Finding the opportune time to ask my

daughter to be my patient was difficult because she has very little time while raising 4-year-old

twins and an eight-year-old. I could not do a redo to verbalize putting on gloves because the

kids ate their dinner in five minutes so they could see what we were doing, and then she had to

pop up and get them headed to bed. Hopefully, anyone changing a soiled brief would have

common sense enough to don gloves.

“Giving a talk is more than sharing information, tone, pitch, eye contact, body movement, and

affect all influence how the speaker perceives the presentation”. (Sullivan pg. 158).

 I found the new skill of using color for a background very fun. Having never made a power

point, it was fun to pick a color for my slides only to realize I chose colors that were too strong.

When I ran the power point back at myself, I realized softer tones of similar color were less

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distracting and overwhelming than bold colors of varying color spectrum. Having picked a nice

flower for the last page, I realized the words were lost in the image. I had to make some

changes there. Content was challenging to create in a bilingual fashion; The slides were too

small to fit English and Spanish on the same one.

 Teaching families to change their loved one requires a sense of humor. Families feel better

knowing that it takes practice. Giving loved one’s permission to make mistakes and try again

offers the families relief that it is an ongoing learning process. Because we live in an

individualistic society, many people do not live in extended communities. Families live across

the country and the young folks are often away at college. Many people do not grow up with

the elder in the home, these skills are new. Many people are nervous about hurting their loved

one. Our culture does a poor job at including the changes at end of life and death. The hospice

team works hard to move the family unit to a place where the family can celebrate the patient

and provide excellent spiritual, emotional, and physical care in a very short time. Cultural

differences are of upmost importance in teaching this skill. Modesty, inclusion, respect for

family clashes and learning ability need to be taken into consideration. If someone has a weak

stomach, changing a brief might not be the best thing for them to do. Educating that a hired

caregiver, or a neighbor, or choosing to go to a nursing home are ideas that get introduced to

give the family options for care. It is so rewarding to see when God’s Grace comes in and

families get on the same page. The process of watching God work with His sheep is brilliant and

comforting. He is the Master teacher.

 Making a teaching tool felt empowering to me. Certainly, in our country, with so many

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people moving here to The United States, cultural sensitivity in the health care setting needs to

be inclusive. Teaching tools need to be directed towards the group we are providing

information to.

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 **References**

Sullivan, Eleanor J. *Becoming Influential a Guide for Nurses* Second Edition.

Wolf, Z.R., and Bailey, D.N. (2013). Paterson and Zderdad’s humanistic nursing theory: Concepts and Applications. International Journal for Human Caring, 17(4), 60-69.

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