

Advocating for the Rights, Dignity, and Autonomy of Older Adults

“Ethical and Culturally
Sensitive Nursing Care in the
Community”



Intended Learning Objectives

- Advocate for the rights, dignity, and autonomy of older adults, ensuring ethical and culturally sensitive care in diverse community contexts.
- Identify the rights, dignity, and autonomy of older adults.
- Explore the ethical and legal challenges faced by healthcare professionals in caring for older adults in the community.
- Understand the nurse's role in advocating for the needs and preferences of older adults with multimorbidity in the community.

Introduction

- Global ageing population trends
- Importance of protecting elderly rights in community care
- Nurses as frontline advocates

Rights of Older Adults

- Right to healthcare access
- Right to informed decision-making
- Right to privacy and confidentiality
- Right to social inclusion

Dignity in Caring Older Adults

- Respecting individuality and values
- Promoting independence
- Non-discrimination and ageism awareness
- Compassionate communication

Autonomy of Older Adults

- Shared decision-making in care planning
- Advance directives and informed consent
- Balancing safety vs. independence
- Respecting cultural and personal preferences

Ethical Challenges in Caring Older Adults

- End-of-life decision-making (DNR, palliative care)
- Informed consent with cognitive decline
- Equity in resource allocation
- Confidentiality in family-centered care

Legal Challenges

- Elder abuse and neglect reporting
- Guardianship and capacity assessment
- Patient rights under healthcare laws
- Cultural sensitivity within legal frameworks

Nurse's Role in Advocacy

- Ensuring patient voices are heard
- Facilitating access to services (health, social, financial)
- Educating families and caregivers
- Promoting interprofessional collaboration

Advocacy in Multimorbidity Care

- Coordinating holistic, person-centered care
- Balancing multiple treatments with quality of life
- Supporting self-management and independence
- Advocating for equitable healthcare resources

Culturally Sensitive Care

- Respect for traditions, beliefs, and values
- Language support and communication strategies
- Inclusive care planning
- Building trust with community elders

Example: Case scenario

Mrs. Silva, a 78-year-old woman, is admitted to a community health center. She prefers to wear her traditional saree every morning and insists on feeding herself, even though it takes her more time. During breakfast, a junior staff member tries to feed her quickly to “save time.” Mrs. Silva becomes visibly upset.

- **Discuss Key nursing interventions**

Conclusion

- Nurses as protectors of rights, dignity, and autonomy
- Ethical and legal responsibility in community care
- Call to action: advocacy for quality ageing

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small, rectangular piece of white paper with deckled edges. The paper is held between the fingers of both hands. On the paper, the words "Thank You" are written in a black, elegant cursive script. The background is dark, making the hands and the white paper stand out.

Thank You