Believing the patient role is important. This relationship is grounded in an appreciation of patient’s rights and expands on the rights to include mutuality. In this relationship, there are mutual responsibilities and accountabilities among the patient, the family, and the provider.

Patient advocacy is the demonstration of how all of the components of the relationship fit together.

Health care literacy is essential for patient, family, and provider to understand the components of patient engagement. Providers must maintain awareness of the health care literacy level of the patient and family and respond accordingly. Acknowledgment and appreciation of diverse backgrounds is an essential part of the engagement process.

Why are Nurses So Important to Patients and Families?

- There are 3.1 million registered nurses in the U.S.
- Nurses are educated to provide care and to advocate on behalf of patients and their families while respecting their values, beliefs and preferences.
- There is a social contract between society and the profession of nursing (American Nurses Association, 2010).
- “This contract acknowledges that nurses will provide care to all who are in need, regardless of their cultural, social or economic standing. Nurses are prepared at any level of education to focus on the patient and family’s needs, whether they are physical, psychosocial, or emotional. Evidence that society appreciates the value of this contract is demonstrated by the public’s oft-repeated choice for more than a decade, of ranking nursing as the most trusted profession.”
- Nurses need to be able to practice independently in order to be respected and honored.

References

American Nurses Association (2010). Nursing’s social policy statement: The essence of the profession. Silver Spring, MD.


