Conflict With Patient: Differing Religious Beliefs

Ashley Frei  
Wayne State University, hl8088@wayne.edu

Cameron Bear  
Wayne State University, hk4734@wayne.edu

Grant Zydeck  
Wayne State University, gn7220@wayne.edu

Justin Hassen  
Wayne State University, hm1016@wayne.edu

Madison Meyer  
Wayne State University, gn3825@wayne.edu

See next page for additional authors

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Authors
Ashley Frei, Cameron Bear, Grant Zydeck, Justin Hassen, Madison Meyer, Mithil Gudi, and Amanah Fatima

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Differing Religious Beliefs

Authors: Frei, Ashley., Zydeck, Grant., Gudi, Mithil., Bear, Cameron., Hassen, Justin., and Meyer, Madison.

Learning Community Group: Brown 7
Professionalism
Conflict with Patient

Student’s religious beliefs don’t align with patient’s sexual orientation

Student:
- Separate personal feelings from patient’s life decisions
- Focus on the health and upholding Hippocratic oath regardless of religious differences to provide best healthcare possible

Patient:
- Work to not force opinions on provider, but provide necessary information for adequate health treatment
- Be accepting of differing views
Reflections

In order to provide the best care possible in the clinical setting, it is essential to maintain professionalism when interacting with patients who may hold differing opinions. Channeling a growth mindset involves finding effective solutions to challenging situations like these. Separating one’s personal opinions, reaching out for support from clinical team members, and being receptive and nonjudgmental of other perspectives is essential in every interaction with a patient.

Wearing the white coat can be a symbol of our medical expertise and aspiration to heal. However, it can also be intimidating. As such, it is necessary to remain humble and to convey to our patients that we are one and the same, so they are comfortable being open and willing to share their experiences and opinions. In this way, we can provide the most appropriate, tailored care.