

Cultural Competency

Obj. 8.6: Apply effective communication and cultural competency skills to community pharmacy situations.



Communication Breakdowns

Explain a time when you and a health care provider had poor communication? What were the causes? What were the effects?



Cultural Competency

1. What does the word “culture” mean to you?
2. What does the word “competent” mean to you?
3. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being very unimportant and 10 being very important) how important do you think listening & communication skills are in general? Specifically to pharmacists? Why?



What is Cultural Competency?

CULTURAL COMPETENCY:

—Refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures & socio-economic background.

—Cultural competence comprises four components:

1. Awareness of one's own cultural worldview
2. Attitude towards cultural differences
3. Knowledge of different cultural practices and worldview
4. Cross-cultural skills. Developing cultural competence results in an ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with people across cultures.

SUPPORTIVE COMMUNICATION:

- An effective way of communicating with individuals, especially used in times of crisis (ex. Patient who has just found out they have cancer, etc.)
- Includes using: Empathy, Respect, Positive regard, Non-judgmental stance, Empowering, Practical, Confidentiality, Ethical conduct.
- Includes verbal and non-verbal communication

Listening + Supportive Communication: What does it look like?

- Will** - Making the choice to listen actively
- Attention** – Focusing on the patient
- Bracketing** – Not being judgmental (where we think about cultural competency); rephrasing the patient's concern
- Empathic Responding** – Experiencing how someone else feels & letting them know you understand

**Cultural Competency Scenarios**

In the scenarios below, describe the possible effects of each situation.

1. Ms. B is an African American mother of a child with special health care needs. Frequently, when she walks up to the front desk, she is automatically asked for her Medicaid card. Her family is not eligible for any Medicaid waivers and has private insurance through her husband's employer. She does not appreciate that the front desk automatically assumes that because she is African American, she is poor.

What are the effects of this situation for:

- a) Ms. B?
- b) Her child?
- c) The pharmacist?

2. Mr. Q speaks very little English. He finds it very difficult to make appointments and get prescriptions renewed at his child's doctor's office and pharmacy. He chose his child's pharmacy because one of the pharmacists speaks Spanish. There is another person in the office who speaks Spanish, but she is often busy interpreting for someone else. Thus, Mr. Q feels very hesitant about calling or going to the pharmacy.

What are the effects of this situation for:

- a) Mr. Q?
- b) His child?
- c) The pharmacist?



Watching Communication in Action

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3UBuRc9sZ4>

As you watch, try to identify which of the 4 parts of communication are being used and which of the 4 are being left out. (Will, Attention, Bracketing, Empathic Responding)



Scenarios

For each scenario below, answer based on the cultural competency skill that is best represented in the situation (will, attention, bracketing, or empathic response).

1. Angelica goes to the pharmacist and explains that she has “terrible back pain that will not go away.” She is frustrated because she has gone to several different pharmacies, and no one will give her medication. After listening, the pharmacist calmly looks at Angelica and says, “I can understand how you’re frustrated. I encountered a similar situation when I had terrible stomach pain.” Which communication or cultural competency skill best describes the step in the process of supportive communication?
2. Oliver just received a prescription eye drop from his doctor. When he got home, he checked online and discovered that the drops the doctor gave him were intended for an ear ache. If he put them in his eye, he could potentially go blind! He rushed to the pharmacy to complain, and what frustrated him further was that the pharmacist answered the phone in the middle of talking to him! Which skill was the pharmacist not practicing?
3. Vincent calls his local pharmacist and tells him that his doctor prescribed him some medicine that is now making him feel very dizzy and nauseous. The pharmacist has dealt with Vincent before, and knows that Vincent complains of dizziness with every medication and acts sort of “wimpy”. The pharmacist decides to be professional and push that thought out of his mind, so he can really listen to Vincent. Maybe this time it’s serious! Which skill best describes the step in the process of listening?



Pharmacy Communication & Cultural Competency

The follow table lists some principles of cultural competency. For each, explain the principle in your own words, then answer the question: “How might a pharmacist who does NOT have these impact a patient? “

Principle	Your Explanation	Your Example (How might a pharmacist who does NOT have these impact a patient?)
1. Awareness of one’s own personal and professional cultural biases.		
2. Ability to assess the influence of culture on a patient’s health beliefs.		
3. Understanding of the dynamics of power and privilege that arise in cross-cultural interactions.		