# Developing a Holistic Self-Care Plan for Nurses in a New Nurse Residency Program

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# **DNP Scholarly Work/Results**

The purpose of my Doctorate of Nursing Practice scholarly project :

Developing a Holistic Self-Care Plan for Nurses in a New Nurse Residency Program

- This lack of caring for self, can, and will lead to physical ailments but also compassion discomfort, compassion stress, and compassion fatigue (Coetzee & Klopper, 2010).
- If nurses are NOT caring for their body, mind, and spirit how does Compassion Satisfaction exist?

### Literature....

- The literature is filled with articles addressing compassion fatigue, stress and secondary traumatic stress within the nursing profession.
- The unresolved, intense, or prolonged and continuous stressors can lead to compassion discomfort, compassion stress and ultimately compassion fatigue (Coetzee & Klopper, 2010).
- Nurses who are emotionally, physically and spiritually unwell may impact patient quality of care (Roberts, 2013).
- The research portrays nurses as the 'broken healer' when their own emotional supply is low and this may negatively affect patient safety and quality of care (Kratvits, McAllister-Black, Grant, Kirk, 2010).



## What is Compassion Satisfaction?

- Compassion satisfaction is the pleasure received from the ability to do one's work in their role as a caregiver (Stamm, 2009).
- Compassion satisfaction is the inner strength, desire, and will to keep nurses at the bedside, caring for patients in a mutually satisfying role.





## Therefore....

- Just as nurses are mindful in the care of individuals, so too, must the nurse be mindful of the holistic care of his/her own body, mind and spirit.
- Each individual patient is unique with a sense of self. Hence, each individual nurse is also unique with a sense of self.
- The totality of self encompasses the body, mind spirit unity.
- The decline in one aspect of an individual's body, mind or spirit can have adverse effects on the human being.

The American Nurses Association fully supports a human beings essential unity of mind, body and spirit (American Nurses Association, n.d.).

# American Nurses Association (ANA)

American Nurses Association conducted a Health and Safety Survey in 2001, and then again in 2011.

The results showed the top three concerns, (bracketed percentages are 2001 results):

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- Effects of stress and overwork was 74% (70%)
- Disabling musculoskeletal injury 62% (59%)
- Contracting an infectious disease 43% (37%)

## In ten years....

### As a profession, we have faltered

Literature about workforce shows the imperativeness of self-care for all nurses, however, there are discrepancies that this is not recognized consistently (Mills, Wand, & Fraser, 2015).

# How does CS relate to the helping profession?

- Research provides how compassion satisfaction may be a catalyst to combat compassion fatigue and it can be achieved through purposeful interventions (Smart, English, James, Wilson, Daratha, Childers, Magera, 2014).
- Research reflects on compassion fatigue, stress, and secondary traumatic stress disorder and often points to a need to discover, develop, enhance or maintain compassion satisfaction (Meyer, Li, Klaristenfeld & Gold, 2015).

# Trending....

#### Compassion satisfaction

- Studies on compassion satisfaction among new nurses were limited.
- Exploring self-care among new nurses utilizing holistic self-care tools was also limited.
- Studies on compassion satisfaction addressed a need for organizational support for caregivers through self-care modalities
- Studies mentioned possible new research initiatives including introducing reflective journaling, and Mandala coloring as part of workday relaxation
- Research is needed to examine the possibility of implementing stress-reducing preventative programs aimed at reflection and relaxation that is institutionally supported (Meyer et. al., 2015)

## Promote Compassion Satisfaction...

#### Self-Care

- wellbeing plans for new graduate nurses.
- incorporate art as a tool for holistic self-care, and relaxation (Kravits et al., 2010).
- incorporate music, allow more time to create wellness plans, and offer the course more often (Kravits et al., 2010)
- that self-compassion and self-care should be practiced by nurses, however if not explicitly trained or required to do so, nurses may not participate (Mills et. al, 2014)
- allow oneself to enter into self-care though drawing, journaling and meditating (Richards, 2013)

#### Mandala

coloring a pre-drawn Mandala is an effective way to lower angst (Kersten & Van Der Vennet, 2010)
 lournaling

The study on journaling allowed participants to describe one's experience, and created an opportunity for mindfulness of self; being and becoming self-aware, therefore caring for the mind (Brathovde, et. al., 2013).

#### **Lavender EO**

information indirectly relates to nursing as a tool for relaxation for new nurses, lavender has been shown to enhance relaxation and rest (Lillehei, 2014).

# **Scholarly Work**

It started with 13....

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