Response to Post

Student’s Name

Program Name, Institution

Course Name

Instructor’s Name

Month, Year

Your post was very informative and insightful on the cultural issues to consider when obtaining a health history from patients with Asian American descent. It is important to obtain JC’s thoughts about the financial assistance that he receives from his daughter, who has limited finances and lacks a form of income. Most Asians with a low socio-economic status believe that it is culturally shameful to seek public assistance. Therefore, for those who are unable to obtain much-needed assistance, they are likely to have poor healthcare-related outcomes. Obtaining this information also helps to inform the decision to involve social workers and making him aware of the available social services.

Healthcare practices and beliefs also affect the delivery of healthcare services to Asian American patients. Most of them only seek Western healthcare services when traditional medicine fails. The most common traditional medicine practices are skin scraping, herbal supplements, acupuncture, and cupping. It is thus important to note that some herbal medicines have active pharmacological ingredients, which can interfere with the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of prescribed medications. Therefore, as suggested by the CDC (2015), when exploring the history of this patient, the nurse practitioner should also explore the use of herbal supplements and traditional medicines.

As you have highlighted, nurse-patient communication is also a fundamental part of building a comprehensive health history. Therefore, as emphasized by Ball et al (2015), when taking JC’s health history, a nurse should pay special consideration to language, as it is a potential communication barrier. In such a case, healthcare providers can always consider using professional interpreters. Besides, it is also important to comprehend what various non-verbal communication cues imply. In Asian cultures, smiling may be a sign of embarrassment and confusion, avoiding eye contact demonstrates respect, and nodding does not imply understanding.

References

Ball, J. W., Dains, J. E., Flynn, J. A., Solomon, B. S., & Stewart, R. W. (2015). Seidel's guide to physical examination (8th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Mosby.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2015). Cultural Competence. Retrieved from https://npin.cdc.gov/pages/cultural-competence