

Vicki Elaine Whitworth Memorial Scholarship
Alexander Moore

Effective nursing is a commonly overlooked but critically important element of the healthcare system. While doctors and surgeons are often considered the apogee of healthcare expertise, nurses must undergo significant training and education and are often similarly qualified, and they provide decisive care for patients both physically and mentally.

Being a good nurse, then, is no easy task. The years of education and training are extensive, but despite the science-focused nature of this medical field, equally as important are a nurse's social abilities in treating and soothing patients of all medical and social backgrounds. A good nurse must be able to act swiftly and respond to medical impetus with practiced confidence in order to maintain a high level of care for patients with intensive requirements. At the same time, nurses are exposed to patients in various mental and physiological states who all have different needs, so a good nurse must be receptive and able to mediate the treatment of a diverse set of maladies across various individuals simultaneously. These two circumstances therefore mean a good nurse must be responsive to immediate medical needs as well as capable of managing several different treatment plans at once.

Nurses also are exposed to an enormous breadth of patients from all walks of life, and so part of being a good nurse is having the open-minded awareness of these identities and not allowing personal belief to cloud treatment quality. In most hospitals there will always be an enormous variety of patients of different genders, races, religions, sexual orientations, and body sizes (amongst countless other factors) that need equitable attention and treatment according to their diagnosis. Beyond that, a good nurse should be able to assist the differently-abled, whether physically or mentally, and this also requires extensive training to ensure their treatment processes are effective since they may be quite different from individual to individual.

Above all, being a good nurse is defined by flexibility, and while this is an easy concept to identify, true flexibility in this profession comes with years of study, experience, and wisdom in the various treatment methods, hospital infrastructures, and types of patients that are encountered in the field. A good nurse is unflappable in all circumstances because they are trained to recognize all circumstances and how to respond appropriately to them, and in the healthcare industry, they play an indispensable role in every aspect of modern care and treatment.