

Humanized care in times of uncertainty

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Closing our volume 2022, we would like to reflect on the concept that gives our journal its name: Humanized Care.

According to the Ceara Declaration (2000), humanization is a substantial resource to encourage and empower individuals and collectives toward developing a sustainable society and enjoying a whole life. This term applies to any situation and modality of care in the life course, including gestation, childbirth, care of people at the end of life, the elderly, people with disabilities, and people in situations of poverty and vulnerability. In this understanding, humanization encompasses health and disease, education, environment, economy, politics, and culture. ⁽¹⁾

When reflecting on humanized care, it is assumed that it is provided by humans and for humans. In this way, ethical, political, economic, and ontological aspects are intertwined, related to giving and receiving care that is exclusive to human beings. ⁽²⁾

According to Busch et al., the most important key element in the humanization of care is respect for people's dignity, uniqueness, and individuality. However, adequate working conditions and human and material resources are also fundamental. ⁽³⁾

Evidence shows promising results in different areas. Humanized care can significantly improve the outcome of newborns with neonatal jaundice and high parental satisfaction. ⁽⁴⁾ Also, in surgical services, the people admitted perceived good behaviors of humanized care by nurses, underlining conditions of professional work, such as respect without distinction of beliefs and values, and promoting tranquility during hospitalization. ⁽⁵⁾

During the most complex stage of the pandemic, humanized care in end-of-life situations has remained with nurses who have sought ways to modify the accompaniment strategies characterized by physical contact and presence while maintaining personal protection devices. ⁽⁶⁾

Thus, the promotion, prevention, referral, and timely treatment of mental health care of health personnel is one of the main approaches that are being demanded from public policymakers, and in this line, to perpetuate and optimize a culture of humanized care. ⁽⁷⁾

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