Nursing at its Best: Competent and Caring

- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (1998, 2008) and the National League for Nursing (2007) have identified caring as a foundational value for nursing.

- Students freely explained why they chose nursing as their profession:
  - Students identified caring as a motivation to be competent so as to promote positive Outcomes for patients. They noted that caring increases competence, ensuring nurses will properly assess patients and perform skills. Other responses included:
    - Without caring, you will not do your best.
    - This will impact the dedication of nurses to provide holistic care.
    - Caring also was considered necessary to “prevent complications” by “checking the patient” as often as needed and “performing skills that may be unpleasant.”

- One student wrote, “I believe nurses are the number one most trusted profession because of their ability to care for each patient.”
The image of nurses as ‘competent and intelligent caregivers’ must become as well known as the image of nurses as ‘angels in white’ so as to attract qualified individuals to the nursing profession.

Marilyn K Rhodes
Blog: I am a nursing student and for an assignment, I need to know: In a nurse's words, what is caring to you?

Any answer is appreciated and will help! Thank-you!

- All the above posts are excellent, but I am a career nurse and I just wish nursing would get off the word "care"! Just is too cutesy for me anymore. We have struggled as a profession and to this day still have a difficult time with just the definition of what nursing is.

This will be unpopular, but.....I don't necessarily care ( in the sense of liking)....I deliver care. Striving for excellence in nursing--what is that?!? The word "caring" just doesn't do it for me, it just doesn't fit me anymore. I offer you this--nursing to me is vigilance. For the most part, I am a privileged observer in the worst time of people's life. It actually is a burdensome responsibility. To some, we are a caring profession--but I don't want caring to define me anymore.