

NC Department of Health and Human Services  
**NC Nurse Aide I Curriculum**

**Module F**  
**Dignity**  
July 2019

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**Objective**

- Identify caring behaviors consistent with treating a resident with dignity



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**The Nature of Dignity**

- Everyone is born with dignity
- After people learn about dignity, a remarkable thing happens



- Dignity has the potential to change the world

- Nurse aides have the potential to change the world where they work by treating each individual with dignity



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**\* Definition of Dignity**

**Dignity**

- Quality or state of being worthy of esteem or self-respect
- Important component in Resident's Rights

**Empathy**

- Identifying with and understanding the feelings of another without feeling sorry

**Resident's Rights**

- How residents **MUST** be treated while living in a long-term care facility (OBRA 1987, 2016)

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**\* Why is Dignity Important?**

- Promotes sense of self-importance
- Promotes quality of life
- Promotes feelings of positive self-worth
- Guides in giving care



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**\* Dignity (1)**

**Nurse Aide's Role**

- Meet resident's needs
- Explain procedures
- Respect room and possessions
- Be patient
- Encourage resident to make decisions



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**\* Dignity (2)**

**Nurse Aide's Role**

- Refrain from judging
- Be positive, supportive and encouraging
- Be familiar with preferences
- Be empathetic
- Listen and be aware of unusual gestures



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**\* Dignity (3)**

**Nurse Aide's Role**

**During interaction with resident, assist resident to maintain and enhance self-esteem and self-worth**

- Respect residents
- Focus on as individuals
- Assist to attend activities of choice
- Respect resident's private space and property – HOW?



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**\* Dignity (4)**

**Nurse Aide's Role**

**How can a nurse aide demonstrate respectful behaviors toward a resident's private space and property?**



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**Dignity – Points to Remember**  
Promotion of dignity is constant and on-going



- Nurse aide should always be respectful
- Dignity is essential for every nurse aide activity

**A resident's dignity is valued if the nurse aide gives appropriate, compassionate, and effective care**

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