Ethnic Minority Women in Welsh Healthcare

Inequality in Care: prejudices and vulnerabilities

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The NHS and Wales

• Where we have come from
• The worldwide influences
• And in medicine itself
Many medical texts from UK

• Major textbooks
• Major research

But *women* (51% of population are women and girls) do not fare well

• Cardiac studies
• Womens health
• Maternity outcomes
Most common cause of male death:

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- Infections
- Heart Disease
- RTA
- Self-harm
Most common cause of female death:

Source: 21st century mortality files, ONS
and 20th century mortality files, ONS
Tuberculosis
1916, 1950s Polio epidemics ... pre-Salk
Thanks to PENICILLIN
...He Will Come Home!
Resistance of E Coli to fluoroquinolones
Deaths Attributable to Antimicrobial Resistance Every Year by 2050

- Europe: 390,000
- Asia: 4,730,000
- Africa: 4,150,000
- Latin America: 392,000
- North America: 317,000

Every year sepsis affects

- 30 million people worldwide
- 3 million newborns
- 1.2 million children

Every year sepsis

- can kill 6 million people
- kills up to 500,000 newborns
- causes 1 in 10 maternal deaths
Sepsis in the UK

SEPSIS AFFECTS 25,000 CHILDREN EACH YEAR IN THE UK

Layla Astley was just 13 weeks old when she nearly died of sepsis after suffering a water infection.

READ PATIENTS' STORIES
Deaths today from:
Cancer
HIV
Emotional

Pain

Spiritual

Social

Physical
Morphine availability globally

80% of the world’s dying do not have access to morphine; 6% are children
Betty Williams

"We were a good example to the rest of the world, how you can live together regardless of where you came from or the colour of your skin."

Betty Campbell.
We were a good example to the rest of the world, how you can live together regardless of where you come from or the colour of your skin.

"We were a good example to the rest of the world, how you can live together regardless of where you come from or the colour of your skin."

"Roeddwn ni'n esiampol oda i weddill y byd o sut y gellom, gyd-fyw beth bynnag yw eich gwreiddiau neu llw eich oren."

Betty Campbell.
National census in 2011 aged 15 to 24

• 81.7% white, 9.8% Asian, 3.9% Black, 3.4% Mixed and 1.2% Other.

But wide variation – Newham 29% white

• The proportion of BME applicants and entrants to higher education is over-represented at 25% compared to the national population at 18.3%

• A third of all UK medical students and junior doctors are from minority ethnic groups
Skin of colour
HOW WOMEN HAVE OUTNUMBERED MEN AT MEDICAL SCHOOL ENTRY FOR 25 YEARS
First hand information – beware of unconscious bias

Do you know about what mattered to the person?

Do you listen actively?

Are you on their territory?
Cultural interpretation of autonomy

- Patient
- Doctor
- Dyad
- Triad
- Family
What do you need to make any decision?

1. Accurate information
2. Capacity to take that decision
3. Voluntary
A decision – on balance …. Needs consent
Is vulnerability being made worse?

• Reverse the reversible?
• What is irreversible?
No law against stopping treatment

You cannot be treated against your will

Risks
Burdens

Benefits

Stop intervention
Palliative care – developed world

Science of helping dying patients as they die

For most people, dying is not a sudden presence of death, but a gentle absence of life.
“You matter because you are you, and you matter to the last moment of your life. We will do all we can, not only to help you die peacefully, but also live until you die.”

Dame Cicely Saunders (1918-2005)
Morphine ‘kills the pain, not the patient’
Motor neurone disease

CARE

Stop ventilator

Death

‘disease’
deat

time
Euthanasia / physician assisted suicide / Assisted suicide

Give drug – express intention to kill

‘disease’ death?
Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia deaths per million population (official data)
Are doctors prepared to participate actively in assisted suicide and euthanasia? RCR 2019 - 34% response rate
Dignity is having a sense of personal worth

Dame Cicely Saunders 1992
In place of fear - Listening

Ear

You

Eyes

Undivided attention

Heart