NAVAJO CUSTOM IN DEALING WITH HEALTH CARE

Dr. Caleb Lauber

Vada Smiley, Navajo Interpreter
AGENDA

- Introduction
- Where is the Navajo Reservation?
- Navajo custom and belief in Health Care
- Navajo Interpreter
- Teaching from provider perspective
INTRODUCTION

Dr. Lauber
Clan
PCP role in Cancer Care

Vada Smiley
Navajo Interpreter
My clan is Meadow people and Water Flows Together people, my paternal clan is Towering house and maternal clan is Bitter Water people. I live in Coyote Canyon, where I raised my 4 beautiful children.
NAVAJO RESERVATION IS THE LARGEST FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE IN THE US. IT IS THE LARGEST RESERVATION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH 27,413 SQUARE MILES, WITH MORE THAN 399,494 ENROLLED TRIBAL MEMBERS. TODAY, WE STILL DRIVE ON DIRT ROADS, ONE THIRD LIVE WITH NO ELECTRICITY, RUNNING WATER, AND SOME DON’T OWN A VEHICLE. MANY LIVE BELOW THE LEVEL OF POVERTY, MAKING ABOUT $20,000 A YEAR, WHICH CAUSES THEM TO LIVE IN ONE HOUSEHOLD. MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSEHOLDS CONTRIBUTED TO HIGH COVID RELATED DEATHS.
NAVAJO INTERPRETER

PLAN ACCORDINGLY, KNOW WHEN AN INTERPRETER IS NEEDED.

CONVERSATION CAN OFTEN TAKE LONGER, ESPECIALLY WHEN TOPICS ARE COMPLEX

INTERPRETER MAY USE MORE WORDS THAN THE ORIGINAL SPEAKER BECAUSE OF THE GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX OF THE TARGET LANGUAGE.

BRIEF THE INTERPRETER:
  - YOUR NAME, COMPANY NAME, AWARE OF TOPIC AND COPY OF DOCUMENTS (UNFAMILIAR TERMS)

FAMILY MEMBER INTERPRETER
INTERPRETER SETTING
HOW DO WE SUCCESSFULLY EDUCATE COMPLEX TOPICS TO PATIENTS?
IMPROVING HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES

• Spending more time with patients
• Enthusiastic
• Motivated
• Responsive
• Interactive
SUCCESSFUL POINTS OF TEACHING

models
Anatomical models.
3D models

Hands on
• Physical exam
• Showing them area of the body

vision
Being cognizant of visual-spatial mode of learning.

language
Even English speaking Navajo people, benefit from teaching in English, followed in Navajo.

repeat
Re-educate complex subjects at each visit if possible.
TRADITIONAL BELIEFS

• Cancer
• Inappropriate examples
• Body parts
• Eye contact
• Quiet behavior
• Hogan
SUMMARY

Working at NMCC has given us new challenges. Using examples to teach.
AHE’HEE

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