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Students' self-assessment in spiritual care in clinical placement

Background

The International Council of Nursing Code of Ethics for Nurses (2012) states that "in providing care, the nurse promotes an environment in which the human rights, values, customs and spiritual beliefs of the individual, family and community are respected".

When supervising nursing students in clinical placements in the hospital, most students have a reserved attitude when we discuss patients' values and spiritual beliefs as a part of holistic nursing (Kuken & Giske 2019).

Key question

How can we bridge the gap between the students' willingness to practice holistic care and their uncertainty related to what spiritual/existential care is and how to practice it?

Setting

Mid- assessment of nursing students in clinical placement, which takes place after approx. 5 weeks into a 9-week of clinical placement.

Those present: Student in the second year of Bachelor of Nursing, clinical supervisor and teacher

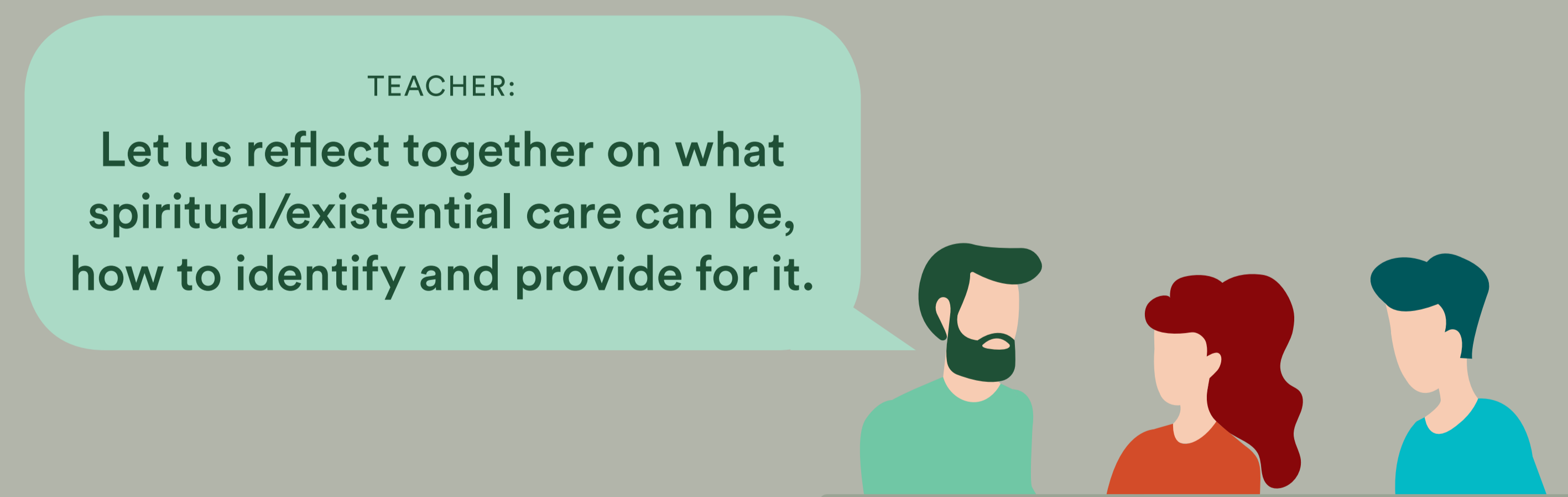
Conclusion

After reflection, and before final assessment, I challenge the student to open up for conversation with patients in crisis.

I give the student two questions (2Q-SAM Questions-Spiritual/Holistic Assessment Model, Ross & McSherry 2018) to try out:

1. What is most important to you now?
2. How can I/we help?

At final assessment, we reflect together based on the students' experiences on spiritual/existential care.



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