

Case Study: Jewish Patient and High Holidays

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A seventy-year-old Orthodox Jewish female presented to the emergency room during the afternoon preceding Yom Kippur. The patient was very distressed by being hospitalized and requested to be seen as soon as possible with the hope that she would be discharged before sunset. The patient's nurse was moved by this patient's commitment and felt sad that the patient was not home with her community preparing for services.

The nurse advocated for the team to see her as quickly as possible. After two hours, the nurse approached the attending physician again and reiterated that this patient needed to be seen quickly. The doctor became upset and said that she had more critical patients that she needed to prioritize.

Reflection:

- What is Yom Kippur? What is its significance among the Jewish holidays?
- Place yourself in the role of the patient, the nurse, and the doctor. How would you feel in each of these positions?
- Should the team prioritize treating this patient in anticipation of the holiday? Why or why not?
- How could the nurse further support this patient in her religious observance if she was unable to leave the hospital? What other members of the interdisciplinary team could she involve?

Additional Resources:

Melnyk, B. M., Fineout-Overholt, E., Stillwell, S. B., & Williamson, K. M. (2010). Evidence-based practice: step by step: the seven steps of evidence-based practice. *The American Journal of Nursing*, 110(1), 51-53.

SSorajjakool, S., Carr, M. F., Nam, J. J., Sorajjakool, S., & Bursey, E. (Eds.). (2017). *World Religions for Healthcare Professionals*. London: Routledge.