Case Study: Shoe Removal in a Chinese Buddhist Home

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A home health care nurse in the US pays a visit to an elderly Chinese patient. The patient asks her to remove her shoes upon entering the house. The nurse explained that she is not allowed to remove her shoes due to liability and safety issues. The patient becomes quite concerned and insists that she cannot enter the house while wearing shoes. The nurse suggests that she wear shoe covers in order to enter and deliver needed health care while maintaining safety protocols. The patient offered the nurse indoor slippers instead.

Reflection:

- What are some of the competing needs in this case?
- Would shoe covers be an appropriate compromise?
- What are some ways the nurse could approach this issue?
- What are the origins of shoe removal in certain cultures?

Additional Resources:


