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JUST A LITTLE RESPECT: DIGNITY IN THE HEALTH CARE CONTEXT

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The invocation to treat one another with respect and dignity is one we see entering almost any healthcare facility. What is often lacking in these types of invocations is a clear definition of dignity. In this presentation I will outline an account of dignity that finds its source in the relationships we bear to one another, especially relations of care. My aim is to show that while respect for dignity and autonomy often overlap, dignity is not just another term for autonomy, and that respect for dignity is salient in its own right.

Objectives:

1. Explore meanings of dignity, including its overlap with autonomy.
2. Learn from patient perceptions of dignity affirming or diminishing care.
3. Explain why dignity and autonomy ought to remain distinct concepts in healthcare ethics

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