

Navigating Communication With Different Generations: Reducing Drama & Conflict In Healthcare

Jennifer L. FitzPatrick, MSW, LCSW-C, CSP Jenerations Health Education, Inc. www.cruisingthroughcaregiving.com

# **AGE**

A= Accept generational diversity as part of who we are

G= Get real about your bias

**E=** Expect generational commonalities

# The "Typical" Millennial

## How Do You Identify?

- 1. My age is
- a. 37 or younger
- b. 38-53
- c. 54-72
- d. Older than 73

#### How Do You Identify?

- 2. Getting personal satisfaction from my job is
- a. Absolutely essential
- b. Essential
- c. Preferred
- d. Nice if it happens

### How Do You Identify?

- 3. How do you feel about this statement: "Decisions must always be made for the greater good."  $\label{eq:continuous}$
- a. don't agree with this at all
- b. don't agree with this
- c. Agree with this sometimes
- d. Almost always agree with this

# How Do You Identify?

- 4. My comfort level with people not like me (race, culture, socioeconomics, religion, sexual orientation) is
- a. Extremely high
- b. High
- c. Average
- d. Low

#### How Do You Identify?

- 5. Working from home at least sometimes is
- a. Essential
- b. A nice perk
- c. Not usually necessary
- d. Not essential

# How Do You Identify?

- 6. I spend time on social media
- a. Constantly
- b. A fair amount
- c. Sometimes
- d. Hardly ever

# How Do You Identify?

- 7. How likely am I to get a second opinion when a doctor I trust gives me a diagnosis about a serious condition
- a. Extremely likely
- b. Very likely
- c. Likely
- d. Not likely

#### Your Score!

- Mostly As=identifies as Millennial
- Mostly Bs=identifies as Generation X
- Mostly Cs=identifies as Baby Boomer
- Mostly Ds=identifies as Traditionalist

Traditionalist born 1945 or earlier The Oldest

96 year old actor Betty White

Traditionalist born 1945 or earlier (Mid-Old)

> 81-year old George Takei Actor & activist



Traditionalist Takeaways
Staff Longevity
Important
Offer In-Person/Phone Meeting When Possible

Have Written Materials Deference to healthcare provider

Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) *Young Old* 

> Disc Jockey Howard Stern, 64

Baby Boomer Takeaways

Hours=work ethic

Impressed by Longevity

**Knows Their Rights** 

Healthcare Professional As Partner

Generation X (born 1965-1980)

Middle-Aged

Baseball Player Derek Jeter, 44

Generation X Takeaways

Likes technology options

Likely to look you up ahead of time and review you



Millennial Takeaways

Work Life balance

Wants diversity in Your staff

Demands technology options

Less impressed with your longevity

Wants to hear about your socially conscious initiatives

# **AGE**

A= Accept generational diversity as part of who we are

G= Get real about your bias

E= Expect generational commonalities



**Best Practices** 

Ask for communication preferences!

**Best Practices** 

Consider phrases/references to avoid



**Best Practices** 

Reconsider swinging toward all digital marketing/communication

