



## Guidelines for Cultural Competence

### Summary of the Domains of Culture

<i><b>Domain</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>
Ethnic Identity	Country of origin, ethnicity/culture with which the group identifies, current residence, reasons for migration, degree of acculturation/assimilation, and level of cultural pride
Communication	Dominant language and any dialects, usual volume/tone of speech, willingness to share thoughts/feelings/ideas, meaning of touch, use of eye contact, control of expressions and emotions, spokesperson/decision maker in family
Time and Space	Past, present, or future time orientation; preference for personal space and distance
Social organization	Family structure; head of household, gender roles, status/role of elderly; roles of child, adolescents, husband/wife, mother/father, extended family; influences on the decision-making process; importance of social organization and network
Workforce issues	Primary wage earner, impact of illness on work, transportation to clinic visits, health insurance, financial impact, importance of work
Health beliefs, practices, and practitioners	Meaning/cause of cancer and illness/health, living with life-threatening illness, expectation and use of Western treatment and healthcare team, religious/spiritual beliefs and practices, use of traditional healers/practitioners, expectations of practitioners, loss of body part/body image, acceptance of blood transfusions/organ donations, sick role and health-seeking behaviors
Nutrition	Meaning of food and mealtimes, preferences and preparation of food, taboo/rituals, religious influences on food preferences and preparation
Biologic variations	Skin/mucous membrane color, physical variations, drug metabolism, laboratory data, and genetic variations-specific risk factors and differences in incidence/survival/mortality of specific cancers
Sexuality and reproductive fears	Beliefs about sexuality and reproductive/childbearing activities, taboos, privacy issues, interaction of cancer diagnosis/treatments with beliefs about sexuality
Religion and spirituality	Dominant religion; religious beliefs, rituals, and ceremonies; use of prayer, meditation or other symbolic activities; meaning of life; source of strength
Death and dying	Meaning of dying, death and the afterlife; belief in fatalism; rituals, expectations, and mourning/bereavement practices

Source: Oncology Nursing Society. (1999). Oncology Nursing Society Multicultural Outcomes. Guidelines for Cultural Competence. Pittsburgh, PA: Author. Reprinted with permission.

