

**What essential components of a cultural assessment should be performed relevant to end-of life care?**

| <b>Components</b>            | <b>Questions to consider</b>   |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Communication</b>         | <p>Who will be the decision maker in the family regarding health care issues?</p> <p>Who will be the spokesperson for the family?</p> <p>Does the family easily ask questions or express concerns?</p> <p>Are there trust issues between the health care provider and the family?</p> <p>What type of non-verbal cues are observed with the patient and family?</p> <p>Are there certain terms that are to be used to describe illness or terms that are considered “taboo”?</p> <p>What traditional explanations may be used to explain a terminal illness?</p> |
| <b>Space</b>                 | Is family closeness valued?  |
| <b>Time</b>                  | <p>Is the individual and or family present, past, or future oriented? Present oriented takes each day as it comes. Past oriented holds on to significant past traditions. Future oriented looks to the future for a “better life” and therefore being open to change may be more acceptable.</p>   |
| <b>Environmental Control</b> | <p>Who holds control over the future?</p> <p>Where does the locus of control lie? Internally (i.e., that the power to make changes lies within oneself), or externally (i.e., that the power of change is due to luck, to chance, to fate or to a supreme being?).</p>   |
| <b>Social Organization</b>   | <p>Does the patient believe in a supreme being? The family?</p> <p>What role does faith or spirituality plays in the patient’s belief and/or influences his/her behavior?</p> <p>Are there traditional healers who are consulted routinely and under what circumstances?</p> <p>What is the function and role of each family member within the family system?</p>  |
| <b>Biological Variation</b>  | <p>Are pain or symptoms expressed freely or only if asked?</p> <p>Is pain considered a suffering to be tolerated?</p> <p>Are there traditional healing or herbal remedies used when someone is seriously ill or dying?</p>   |

(Giger, et al., 2006; Huff & Kline, 2007a)

Giger, J., Davidhizar, R., & Fordham, P. (2006). Multi-cultural and multi-ethnic considerations and advanced directives: developing cultural competency. *Journal of Cultural Diversity*, 13(1), 3-9.

Huff, R., & Kline, M. (2007a). The cultural assessment framework. In M. V. Kline & R. M. Huff (Eds.), *Health Promotion in Multicultural Populations* (Second ed., pp. 123-145). Los Angeles: SAGE.