Module 4
Cultural and Spiritual Considerations in Palliative Care

Module Overview

This module reviews dimensions of culture, which influence care in advanced disease. Assessment of culture is emphasized as essential to adequate communication and in providing cultural competent care to all Veterans and their families.

Key Messages

- Cultural competent care includes recognition of multiple factors, i.e. ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and social class.
- Cultural and spiritual factors significantly influence communication with Veterans and families at the end of life.
- Culturally and spiritually competent care is best provided through an interdisciplinary approach.

Objectives

At the completion of this module, participants will be able to:
1. Identify the dimensions of culture and spiritual beliefs and the influence on palliative care for Veterans across the life span.
2. Explain the importance of a cultural self-assessment and its relevance in palliative nursing.
3. Describe elements of a cultural and/or spiritual assessment in Veterans requiring palliative care.
4. Discuss communication principles within the context of culture.