

Module 4

Cultural 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 culturally and spiritually competent care to all Veterans and their families.

Key Messages

- Culturally sensitive care includes recognition of multiple factors, i.e. culture, religion/spirituality, ethnicity, military experiences, gender, gender identity, gender expression, differing abilities, socioeconomics and social determinants of health.
- Cultural and spiritual/religious factors significantly influence communication with patients and families with serious illness.
- Culturally sensitive care is best provided through an interprofessional approach.

Objectives

At the completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Identify dimensions of culture and the influence of culture and spirituality on palliative care for Veterans across the life span and in all settings.
2. Conduct a cultural and/or spiritual assessment of Veterans facing the end of life.
3. Recognize the value of interprofessional care in respecting cultural and spiritual diversity.