

9. Death and Dying



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Death and dying are among the most **significant** and **sacred** events of all societies. It is therefore imperative that Health Care Providers respect and support the customs, beliefs, rituals and practices that can provide meaning and comfort to care recipients (terminally ill) and their families at this time.



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• Other Considerations:

- Provide information about care plans, palliative care and support services in the **preferred language** of care recipients and their families using **professional interpreting services** when required.
- Consult care recipients and their families regarding open discussion of **diagnosis and prognosis** and determine the role of family members in **decision-making** about care and treatment.
- Establish the willingness of care recipients & their families to **discuss issues around death & dying**, including the use of appropriate terms.
- Determine the impact of **cultural & religious beliefs** on the acceptability of certain treatments and medications.
- Understand that people will have different interpretations of the concept of **quality of life**, and that these may be culturally determined.
- Ensure all palliative care services **identify** and **support** the cultural, linguistic & spiritual needs of care recipients & their families, including **rituals** and **practices** around death and dying.
- Ensure palliative care recipients and their families have access to culturally appropriate **emotional** and **spiritual** support.

[KEY Major Religious Beliefs TABLE Update.pdf](#)

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RELIGION	BELIEFS ABOUT BIRTH	BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH	HEALTH CARE BELIEFS	SPECIAL SYMBOLS, BOOKS, RELIGIOUS PRACTICES
Judaism (Judaism)	No child is born. The beginning of human existence is an individual choice. No fate or predestination.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.
Christianity (Christianity)	No child is born. The beginning of human existence is an individual choice. No fate or predestination.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.
Muslim (Islam)	No child is born. The beginning of human existence is an individual choice. No fate or predestination.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.	Death is a punishment for sin. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected. Resurrection is a reward for a good life. The soul is immortal and will be resurrected.
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Terri Schiavo Documentary.

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