



Pastoral Care & Education

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Religious Diversity: Practical Points for Health Care Providers

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Presented here are brief lists of points for health care providers to keep in mind when caring for patients from a number of different religious traditions. These are not comprehensive descriptions but rather practical items that may affect a patient, family, and care team in the course of a hospitalization. For more information, and for resources to assist with any particular patient case, contact the chaplains of the Department of Pastoral Care.

Religious traditions tend to be as complex as they are long, and it is impossible to predict how any one patient or family member may understand or apply them in the context of health care. Therefore, providers should encourage patients and family members to interpret how religious/cultural values may be pertinent to a hospital stay--regarding personal needs, interaction with staff, and decisions about treatment.

The lists below address select points for the care of patients from [Buddhist](#), [Catholic](#), [Hindu](#), [Jehovah's Witness](#), [Jewish](#), [Muslim](#) and [Pentecostal](#) traditions.