

Religion

in general, religion plays a major role in people's lives. There are some very useful resources which provide extensive guidelines for the management of patients from different religions. Details about these handbooks are given in the Resources section.

Religious beliefs have a major impact on attitudes toward many procedures in the hospital, e.g. organ transplantation, birthing practices, death and dying, diet, gender issues, abortion and modesty, to name a few.

Certain religions require prayer at certain times of the day, so

being sick or hospitalised can be very disruptive to an important routine. Prayer rooms are a valuable resource and patients need to be informed about them. In addition, hospital chaplains can coordinate visits from the appropriate priest, monk, rabbi or imam. This may speed up the healing process.

Avoid making negative comments about faith - some staff have said "prayers will never work". Allow room for prayers even if you do not believe in them yourself.

