

Cultural Assessment

These may be important questions to consider when caring for people from cultural backgrounds different to your own. See also the sections on Communicating Effectively, Family and Community, Religion, Diet, Models of Health and Illness, and if relevant, Birthing Practices and Death and Dying in the *Guidelines to Practice*.

- Where was the patient born? How long has the patient been in this country?
- What is the patient's ethnic affiliation?
- Who are the patient's major support people?
- What are the patient's primary and secondary languages, and his or her reading and writing ability in these?
- How would you characterise their non-verbal communication style?
- What is the patient's religion, its importance in daily life, and current practices?
- What are their food preferences and prohibitions?
- Is the patient's income adequate to meet the needs of the patient and family?
- What are their health and illness beliefs and practices?
- What are their customs and beliefs around life events such as birth, illness and death?

Adapted from Lipson, 1996