

Caring for

MUSLIM PATIENTS



KEY POINTS

- Patients or residents who practice Islam should be identified as Muslims in their registration information.
- Both Muslim men and women may be more comfortable with care providers of the same gender.
- Muslims cherish their modesty and privacy.
- Muslim women may choose to cover their hair with the hijab.
- Muslim men and women may need special gown accommodations to cover the body during physical examination.
- Muslims should be provided pork-free and alcohol-free diets (halal meals).
- Accommodations can be made for fasting patients, including with medications.
- Muslim families or community members may want to be directly involved with the care of the sick and the elderly.

END OF LIFE MEDICAL CARE

- Muslims believe that life is transient; during the time of death, a Quranic verse which reads, "Indeed to God we belong and to Him we return" is often repeated.
- Many Muslims will try to be patient and accepting of their end of life.
- Muslims put a strong emphasis on rectifying affairs and making amends with anyone who has been wronged.
- Autopsies are not acceptable unless necessary.
- Burials need to be done as soon as possible; the body should be minimally handled before being released to the family.





MUSLIM PRACTICES WHEN APPROACHING END OF LIFE

- Muslims may engage in meditation, Quranic recitations, readings and prayer.
- Muslims may try to pronounce the testimony of faith at the moment of passing.
- Muslims may spend extensive time listening to Quranic recitations.
- Muslims may want to reach out to their family members, community, or religious leaders for additional support.

CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

- Muslim chaplains, or chaplains of another faith, may support Muslims by providing them with the elements needed for their Muslim rituals: Qurans, prayer rugs, oils, kufis, Islamic rosaries, and daily prayer times schedules.
- Muslim chaplains, or an Imam, may engage in shared religious rituals with the resident or patient.
- Muslims may prefer chaplaincy services to be rendered by someone of the same gender.
- Muslims may not be familiar with the word “chaplain” or “chaplaincy.” Instead, they will be familiar with the term Imam.

It is important to note the following:

The information provided stems from teachings found in mainstream Islam. Not everyone who identifies as Muslim will follow these guidelines. You should adhere to these guidelines unless advised otherwise by the patient or guardian directly.

If a patient identifies as Muslim but does not have family you can contact for end of life care, please contact us at CAIR-FL so we may connect you with an appropriate Islamic service or mosque.

If you have any questions or are interested in diversity training for your team, please contact us:

(833) CAIRFLA (833-224-7352)

info@fl.cair.com

Resources:

Islamic Medical Association of North American - imana.org
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Florida - cairflorida.org