

Muslims in Australian hospitals: The clash of cultures

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Key Words:

Muslims, culturally appropriate care, nursing

Research aim:

This paper highlights issues that Muslim patients face when hospitalized in Australia. Islamic principles will be presented and the impact this has on the health-care provision of Muslim people will be explored.

Results/Conclusion:

it is likely that strategies have not been developed to manage many of the issues that are important to Muslim patients; for example, the provision of halal food,¹⁴ privacy for women, observing hijab and segregation of genders on wards,¹⁵ prayer facility¹⁶⁻²⁰ and visiting. (p.313). The clash of cultures is not an inevitable event, but can be avoided if nurses and other health-care providers ensure the provision of care is flexible enough to incorporate the priorities and needs of the culturally diverse Australian community. Australian health care must reflect the multicultural nature of the community it serves.

Implications:

Results highlight the importance of having strategies that identify the needs and expectations of culturally diverse consumers of the hospital system

Cultural Group(s):

Muslim

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

N/A

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Discussion paper

Type of data:

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: