

Cultural Issues

TRANSFERRING THE PATIENT FROM SUSTAINED DORSAL DECUBITUS TO SUSTAINED LATERAL DECUBITUS

Cultural diversity

Intercultural competence helps you interact both effectively and in an acceptable way in a group of people from different cultural backgrounds. 'Cultural' may refer to a multitude of aspects ranging from values and beliefs and customs to attitudes and practices.

There are noticeable aspects of culture.

- Symbols: belonging to a culture: flag, anthem, cross
- Heroes: exemplary figures from a culture: Robin Hood, Kennedy, TinTin
- Rituals: actions, technically not necessary, but essential to a culture (birthday, ramadan, meal at funeral, rings)

These cultural aspects are a low cause for conflicts.

There are also unnoticeable aspects of culture.

- Values and norms: they are more typical of a culture, but less noticeable; It's the way of thinking and our vision of the world (behaviour at feasts, interviews, greetings, customs, rituals, gestures).

They are often unconscious and not noticeable and therefore a cause for misunderstanding.

Greeting rituals. Did you know that...?

The customs and rituals involved in greeting someone often differ from country to country. It is therefore important to be familiar with them in order to avoid confusing or embarrassing situations.

The French shake hands with a quick and light grip with their friends and often kiss each other on both cheeks, both on arriving and leaving. Men may initiate handshakes with women.

In **the UK** people shake hands only when they meet people for the first time. One kiss on the cheek is common in informal situations between people who know each other very well.

Americans usually shake hands when they meet; it is not common for men to kiss when they meet. Greetings usually consist of a handshake, a smile and a 'hello'.

In Japan, men and women bow when they greet.

In Arab countries, close male friends or colleagues hug and kiss both cheeks. They shake hands with the right hand, longer but less firmly than in Europe. Contact between the opposite genders in public is not accepted. They never shake hands with the opposite sex. A traditional Arab greeting between men involves each grasping the other's right hand, placing the left hand on the other's right shoulder, and exchanging kisses on each cheek.

Belgians may kiss each other on one cheek when they meet, regardless of the gender or how well they know each other.

In China when meeting someone for the first time, people usually nod their heads and smile, or shake hands if in a formal situation.

In Russia, the typical greeting is a very firm and strong handshake (but not obligatory) accompanied by direct eye contact. Never shake hands over a threshold; it is common belief that holds that this will result in an argument. When men shake hands with women, the handshake is less strong. Good friends kiss each other three times while alternating cheeks.

In Scandinavian countries people shake hands with everyone present men, women, and children upon arriving and leaving.

Topic for Forum:

What about your country? How do people greet each other when they meet?