INTRODUCTION
American healthcare providers are members of the fastest growing and most diverse religious communities in the United States. It is very likely that most health care providers will find themselves delivering medical services to Muslim patients at one point or another during their career. Health care providers should therefore be aware of the potential need to accommodate cultural and religious practices and beliefs among specific patients, particularly when physical contact is required during treatment. This should not be taken as an insult, but instead regarded as a sign of personal modesty.

RELATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
When healthcare providers interact with patients, family members, and other individuals in the healthcare setting, they need to consider the principles of clothing, modesty, and other cultural considerations. It is important to approach these interactions with respect and understanding, keeping in mind that Muslim beliefs and traditions vary widely. In some cases, healthcare providers may be called upon to help patients with their religious practices, such as performing ritual ablutions before prayer.

RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS
Like all patients, Muslims are entitled to safety, access, respect, appropriate communication, shared decision-making, privacy, and redress. Some Muslim patients may seek accommodations from health care providers in order to accommodate their preferred levels of modesty and privacy. Staff may hang a “please knock” sign on their door, so that if a male patient requests that only providers or caregivers of the same gender be allowed in the room.

CLOTHING AND MODESTY
CLOTHING AND MODesty
Many men and boys also may express this principle of clothing by wearing traditional clothing, such as long robes or loose-fitting pants. Many Muslim women also opt to wear loose-fitting clothing, such as long robes or loose fitting pants. Some male Muslims wear a small head covering, called a kufi. Many Muslim men and boys choose to grow beards for religious reasons. When entering the room, a knock can give the patient the opportunity to replace her scarf or other religious covering.

Dietary Guidelines
Muslims consider pork products and intoxicants (such as alcohol) both ritually impure and religiously prohibited. In many cases, Muslims also avoid pork because it is considered ritually impure and religiously prohibited. In many cases, Muslims also avoid pork because it is considered ritually impure and religiously prohibited. In many cases, Muslims also avoid pork because it is considered ritually impure and religiously prohibited.

Dietary Guidelines
- Daily Prayer: salah, practiced five times daily, is the ritual prayer in Islam. Muslims ritually wash their hands, face, arms and feet with water, seek out a wudu (wudoo) before prayer. Muslims also follow several other customs related to bodily hygiene, including but not limited to:
  - Washing with water after urination or defecation
  - Ritual washing before prayer
  - Keeping nostrils clean and fingernails trimmed

Ritual Washing Before Prayers
Before the daily ritual prayer, which is observed five times a day, Muslims rinse their mouth and wash their hands, face, arms and feet with water; also known as wudu (wudoo). Health care workers may witness Muslims “making wudoo” in public bathroom sinks.