

*WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VARIOUS RELIGIONS
BUT DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO ASK*

Presented by

Richard Bailey, D. Min.

	Terminal Wean from Life Support	Care of the Ill	Care of the Dying	Care of the Deceased
Christianity	Varies from group to group	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Pastoral care and sacraments along with final prayers	Handling of deceased body - normal hospital procedures
Islam	No	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Lie facing Mecca, recite portions of Koran, pillow under head, Kaliama should be recited	Same sex handling of body of like believers, eyes closed, lower jaw bound to head, limbs flexed and straightened at side of body, body covered with shroud, head turned right toward Mecca
Judaism	No	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Patient should not be left alone, Shema and 23 Psalm should be recited, call the Rabbi	Eyes and mouth closed, limbs extended to side of body, lower jaw bound to head, body placed on floor, feet toward door, cover body, lite candle at head. Open window in patient's room - throw away shoes.
Hinduism	Varies from group to group	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Reading from Bhagavad Gita, tying sacred thread around neck and/or wrist, sprinkling body with Ganges River water. Leaf of sacred, basil bush on patient's tongue, bring money for patient to touch, put patient on floor with Incense burning near body	Close eyes, straighten limbs, remove jewelry, do not remove sacred threads, do not wash body, place shroud on body

Sikhism	Varies from group to group	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Reading from Guru Grant and Sahab	No hair cutting, close eyes, straighten limbs, leave all religious symbols with body, wrap in shroud
Buddhism	No	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Meditation by patient before shrine, patient may refuse pain meds so as to stay alert, prayers of monk should be said at time of death	No formal rituals at time of death – normal hospital procedures
Baha'I	Varies from group to group	There is no priesthood care given by other believers	No special rituals	Inscribed ring on right hand should be removed and given to other believers present
Oriental Religions, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto	Varies from group to group	Pastoral/spiritual care appreciated	Priest should be called to say prayers	Remove all jewelry, place body in shroud

	Terminal Wean from Life Support	Care of the Ill	Care of the Dying	Care of the Deceased
Amish	Do not fear death as loss, see death as victory over life – would see life support as a block to God's will. Most likely would <u>not</u> go on life support in first place.	All decisions made by consensus for the good of the community by Bishops and Elders, less open to physicians dominated decisions, will go with will of community or district Bishop and/or Elders.	Pastoral care given by elders and/or bishop of district, family should be allowed to be at bedside during dying at all times.	Handling of deceased body with respect and dignity – assist family in calling undertaker. Follow normal hospital practice for care of body.
Mennonite	Varies from group to group. May refuse life support in first place, but could wean if terminally ill or brain dead.	All decisions made by consensus for the good of the community by Bishops and Elders, less open to physicians dominated decisions, will go with will of community or district Bishop and/or Elders	Pastoral care given by Pastor and family should be allowed to be at bedside during dying at all times.	Handling of deceased body with general respect. Assist family in calling undertaker. Follow normal hospital practice for care of body.

	Autopsies	Transfusions	Transplants	Modesty
Christianity	No objections	No objections (except for Jehovah's Witnesses will accept no blood products)	No objections	May vary from group to group but generally follow normal hospital procedures
Islam	Only when required by coroner	Acceptable	Seldom done, when done only for blood relative post-mortem gifts only	No nakedness, fully clothed even in bed, same sex caregiver required, no group medical exams
Judaism	Only when required by coroner	Acceptable	Post-mortem gifts only	No nakedness, exams done under normal hospital procedures acceptable
Hinduism	Acceptable but happier if avoided	Acceptable but happier if avoided	Acceptable but happier if avoided	Same sex caregiver required, no nakedness
Sikhism	No objections	No objections	No objections	Same sex caregiver preferred, do not remove patient's under shorts from male or female patients
Buddhism	No objections	No objections	No objections	Caregiver can be either sex except if patient is either a monk or a nun then same sex caregiver required
Baha'I	No objections	No objections	No objections	Normal hospital procedures
Oriental Religions, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto	Only when required by coroner	Acceptable only if receiver from relative of patient	Seldom done	Same sex caregiver preferred

	Autopsies	Transfusions	Transplants	Modesty
Amish	Depends on will of local Bishop	No objections	Entire community will weigh financial implications - Amish are self-insured. Most will <u>not</u> have transplants or make gifts because of view of death as victory rather than loss.	Very modest, ask patient and/or family for special needs as far as modesty because needs may vary.
Mennonite	<u>Not</u> a religious issue for most families.	No objections	No objections to receiving or making gifts of organs.	Modest, but generally will be alright with normal hospital procedures.

* All information from Willard Krabill, MD
 A long time physician to the Mennonite and Amish communities.

Compiled by Richard Bailey, D. Min.

RELIGIOUS FOOD OBSERVANCE

The observance of food law is an important part of some traditions. To break a good law would be unthinkable; some would be physically repulsed. Guilt, disgust, shame and even illness sometimes ensue when even inadvertently one of these laws is infringed.

Westernization has weakened the resolve of many to maintain religious food prescriptions. Patients' dietary needs should be part of the questionnaire at the time of hospital admission so that the patient's requirements can be accommodated.

Guidelines: Permitted and Prohibited Foods

	Hindus	Sikhs	Muslims	Jews
Eggs	Some*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Milk and Yogurt	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cottage/curd cheese	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chicken	Some*	Some	Halal+	Kosher"
Mutton	Some*	Some	Halal+	Kosher"
Beef	No	No	Halal+	Kosher"
Pork	No	Rarely	No	No
Fish	Some*	Some	Yes	Yes
Butter/ghee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Margarine/ Vegetable oils	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* Very strict followers avoid this.

+ Halal meat must be killed, dedicated and prepared in a special way.

" Kosher meat for Jews requires special rituals and butchering procedures in preparation

A HOSPITAL HANDBOOK ON
MULTICULTURALISM and RELIGION

By Neville A. Kirkwood
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JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Dietary Laws and Beliefs: Christians are required to abstain from eating blood and meat of animals from which blood has not properly been drained. (Acts 15:28, 29) Aside from this Bible injunction, there is no restriction on what is to be eaten.

Dissection and autopsies: Unless there is compelling reason, such as when an autopsy is required by a governmental agency, Jehovah's Witnesses generally prefer that the body of a beloved relative not be subjected to a postmortem dissection. The appropriate relative(s) can decide if a limited autopsy is advisable to determine cause of death, etc.

Handicapping Conditions (Birth Defects): See comments under "Prolongation of Life and Right to Die."

Immunoglobulins, Vaccines: The religious understanding of Jehovah's Witnesses does not absolutely prohibit the use of minor blood fractions such as albumin, immune globulins, and hemophiliac preparations. Each Witness must decide individually whether he can accept these. Accepting vaccines from a nonblood source is a medical decision to be made by each one.

"Living Will"/Durable Power of Attorney for Medical Decisions: Each patient will decide what is appropriate for him/her according to his/her circumstances and the provisions of the law.—See "Decision-making and Treatment Information."

Organ Donation and Transplantation: While the Bible specifically forbids consuming blood, no Biblical command pointedly forbids the taking in of tissue or bone from another human. Therefore, whether to accept an organ transplant is a personal, medical decision. The same would be true of organ donation.

Prolongation of Life and Right to Die: Life is sacred and the willful taking of life under any health care circumstance would be wrong. For this reason, reasonable and humane effort should be made to sustain and prolong life. However, the Scriptures do not require that extraordinary, complicated, distressing and costly measures be taken to sustain a person, if such, in the general consensus of the attending physicians, would merely prolong the dying process and/or leave the patient with no quality of life. Any advance directions by the patient that specifically defined what was or was not wanted should be respected.

Religion and Healing Processes (Faith Healing): Jehovah's Witnesses have faith in God but do not believe in faith healing today. Miraculous healing was God's arrangement for a limited time.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Religious Sacraments, Ordinances, Rituals and Customs: Jehovah's Witnesses do not have special rituals that are to be performed for the sick or for those dying. Every reasonable effort should be made to provide medical assistance, comfort and spiritual care needed by the sick patient.

Use of Alcohol, Narcotics and Medications: Moderate use of wine and other alcoholic beverages is not condemned by the Bible, but drunkenness is. (1 Timothy 5:23; Deuteronomy 14:26; Ephesians 5:18) Similarly, Bible principles of moderation and respect for one's life and mental faculties would rule out taking drugs for "highs" and thrills or to produce a form of drunkenness. The taking of mind-altering medications and drugs, including narcotics for severe pain, under the supervision of a physician, would be a matter for personal decision, though one would not want to resort too quickly or without good cause to drugs that were addictive or hallucinatory if other effective methods of treatment were available or if endurance of temporary pain would be the wise and preferable course.

Use of Blood, Blood Products: Jehovah's Witnesses believe that blood transfusion is forbidden by Biblical passages such as: "Only flesh with its soul—its blood—you must not eat" (Genesis 9:3, 4); "[You must] pour its blood out and cover it with dust" (Leviticus 17:13, 14); and "Abstain from . . . fornication and from what is strangled and from blood." (Acts 15:19-21) While these verses are not stated in medical terms, Witnesses view them as ruling out transfusion of whole blood, packed red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma, and platelets. However, Witnesses' religious understanding does not absolutely prohibit the use of minor blood fractions, such as albumin, clotting factors, and immune globulins.—See "Immunoglobulins, Vaccines."

Refusing blood does not make Jehovah's Witnesses anti-medicine. There are many effective nonblood medical alternatives to homologous blood. For example, nonblood volume expanders are acceptable, and reinfusion of their own blood is permitted by many Witnesses when the blood is not stored and when the equipment is arranged in a circuit that is constantly linked to the patient's circulatory system.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Religious and Ethical Position on Medical Therapy, Child Care and Related Matters

Abortion: Deliberately induced abortion simply to avoid the birth of an unwanted child is the willful taking of human life and hence is unacceptable to Jehovah's Witnesses. If (at the time of childbirth) a choice must be made between the life of the mother and that of the child, it is up to the individuals concerned to make that decision.

Adoption and Foster Care: Every effort is made to assist the natural parent(s) to care for their children and to preserve, to the extent possible, the integrity of the family. If custodial care by others is necessary, the best physical, emotional and spiritual environment is desirable and encouraged.

Advance Directives: Jehovah's Witnesses carry on their person an Advance Medical Directive/Release that directs no blood transfusions be given under any circumstances, while releasing physicians/hospitals of responsibility for any damages that might be caused by their refusal of blood. When entering the hospital, release forms should be signed that state matters similarly and deal more specifically with the hospital care needed.

Burial of a Fetus: The decision is a personal one to be made by the couple or the woman involved.

Child Discipline, Neglect and Abuse: Child neglect or abuse has no justification. Discipline in the sense of instruction, training and balanced correction are vital in molding the lives of young children. The Bible speaks approvingly of using the "rod" of parental authority in correcting children, which may include appropriate but moderate physical chastisement at times.—Proverbs 13:24; 29:15, 17.

Circumcision: Under Christian law, whether one is or is not circumcised has no spiritual value. (1 Corinthians 7:19) For an infant, this is a personal matter for the parents to decide.

Decision-making and Treatment Information: The patient (or parents/guardians of young children) should be fully informed on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment recommendations so that informed health care decisions can be made. Parents have the natural and legal right to make such decisions for their children. In a rare emergent situation where doctors may feel the need to get a court order to impose medical care to which the parents have not given consent (such as administering a blood transfusion), the parents should be informed of such intended action as early as possible so that they can be represented in court also.

Hispanic/Latino Culture

Terminal Wean: Establishing and having trust in physician and care staff is critical in making decision. Often feel very guilty, regardless.

Care of the Ill: Very community centered- many people may be at bedside, little differentiation in regards to whether person is family or a friend. Patient is seldom left alone during time in hospital

Care of the Dying: Not restricted to family only, many extended family and friends may be present. A constant vigil may be kept. May want Catholic sacrament of the sick performed by a priest but be hesitant to ask. May keep religious symbols (crosses, prayer cards) on top of bed.

Care of the Deceased: It is usually very important that family and friends see the body before he/she is taken to the morgue.

Autopsies: When required by coroner. Will not usually seek out autopsy for own purposes.

Transfusions: acceptable

Transplants: No objection by Catholic Church, however they may be suspicious of transplant system. Many come from countries that have corrupt systems of buying and selling organs. Trust is the biggest concern in their decision.

Modesty: More modest in general, often keep hospital curtain closed while visiting patient. Sex of caregiver is not as important and normal hospital procedures are acceptable.

Rachel Argueta, M.A., NACC
Chaplain Resident
Clarian Health Partners