

Performing a Cultural Assessment

When working with a new patient, establish a rapport by greeting the patient and introducing yourself. Select an assessment model that best fits your clinical setting and patient population, and use the framework as a guide for questioning your patient. Here's an example using Giger and Davidhizar's Transcultural Assessment Model:

Dimension	Assessment Questions	Finding
<i>Communication</i>	What language does the patient prefer to speak? Be aware of tone, pronunciation, use of body language and silence	
<i>Space</i>	What's the patient's comfort level regarding proximity to others?	
<i>Biological variations</i>	What are the patient's unique physical attributes, genetic history of Predisposition to diseases, nutritional preferences or deficiencies, and Psychological characteristics? These will help you establish a baseline Of clinical information.	
<i>Environmental control</i>	What are the patient's cultural values and beliefs about health and illness?	
<i>Time</i>	What's the patient's time orientation? Future, present, past?	
<i>Social orientation</i>	What's the patient's culture, race, ethnicity, and family role? What part does work, church, and friends play in his or her life?	