

Cultural Sensitivity Training

Alameda Alliance for Health 2020





Training Objectives

By the end of this training you will be able to:

- **1. Understand current laws and regulations** on cultural and linguistics services at the federal and state levels.
- **2. State reasons why cultural sensitivity is important** for providing quality health care.
- **3.** Use strategies to improve communication with key sub-populations
 - Immigrants and refugees
 - LGBTQ+
 - Seniors (older adults) and persons with disabilities
- **4. Know how to access cultural and linguistic resources** available to Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) members.



"

Culture is "the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group ... [which] encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs".

- The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization

What cultures make up who you are ?



Consider these aspects of culture:

- Consider each aspect of culture. How do you define yourself?
- Think about how the cultures that define you act as lenses through which you view the world.



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Cultural and Linguistic Regulations for Managed Care & Medi-Cal

Federal and State



Federal Regulations

Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 440.262

The State must have methods to promote *access and delivery of services in a culturally competent manner* to all beneficiaries, including those with limited English proficiency, diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, and regardless of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

These methods must ensure that beneficiaries have access to covered services that are delivered in a manner that meet their unique needs.

Affordable Care Act of 2010, Section 1557

Prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in certain health programs and activities.

Covered entities are required to post notice of individuals' rights to language assistance, post taglines in the top 15 languages spoken by individuals in the state, prohibited from using low-quality video remote interpreting or unqualified staff, and must implement a language access plan.



Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC)

28 CCR 1300.67.04(c)(3)

The *training* shall include instruction on:

- Knowledge of the plan's policies and procedures for language assistance;
- Working effectively with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) enrollees;
- Working effectively with interpreters in-person and through video, telephone and other media, as applicable; and
- Understanding the cultural diversity of the plan's enrollee population and sensitivity to cultural differences relevant to delivery of health care interpretation services.

California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)



Exhibit A, Attachment 1 - Organization and Administration of the Plan

10. *Sensitivity training*: Contractor shall ensure that all personnel who interact with SPD (*Seniors & Persons With Disabilities*) beneficiaries, as well as those who may potentially interact with SPD beneficiaries, and any other staff deemed appropriate by Contractor or DHCS, shall receive sensitivity training.

Exhibit A, Attachment 9, Section 13 – Cultural and Linguistic Program

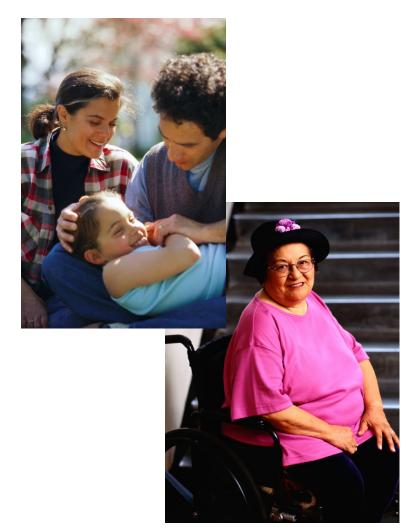
Contractor shall have a Cultural and Linguistic Services Program that incorporates the requirements of Title 22 CCR Section 53876.

Contractor shall *monitor, evaluate, and take effective action to address any needed improvement* in the delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate services. Contractor shall review and update their cultural and linguistic services consistent with the group needs assessment requirements stipulated below.



The Alliance's Commitment

- The Alliance is committed to serving all of its members with respect and dignity regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability.
- Our goal is to ensure the communications, health care, physical spaces, services and programs are accessible to all members, including those with visual, hearing, cognitive and physical disabilities.





Addressing Racism

- Ongoing police brutality against Black Americans and in particular the recent murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, has ignited local, national and global protest and action.
- > In response, the Alliance published the following statement:

Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance) has humbly served communities of color in Alameda County, one of the most diverse counties in the nation, for over 24 years. The Alliance stands with the African American community and in solidarity with movements that aim to create a world free of anti-blackness and structural racism. More than four centuries of inequity and injustice in this nation have resulted in significant disparities and inequitable outcomes for Black Americans, including access to quality health care. Additionally, Black Americans are disproportionately affected by police brutality and violence. We bear witness to the pain and suffering of Black Americans in our communities, oppose any form of structural racism and racial violence, and resolve to evaluate our own practices and their impact on our members, provider partners, and employees ...

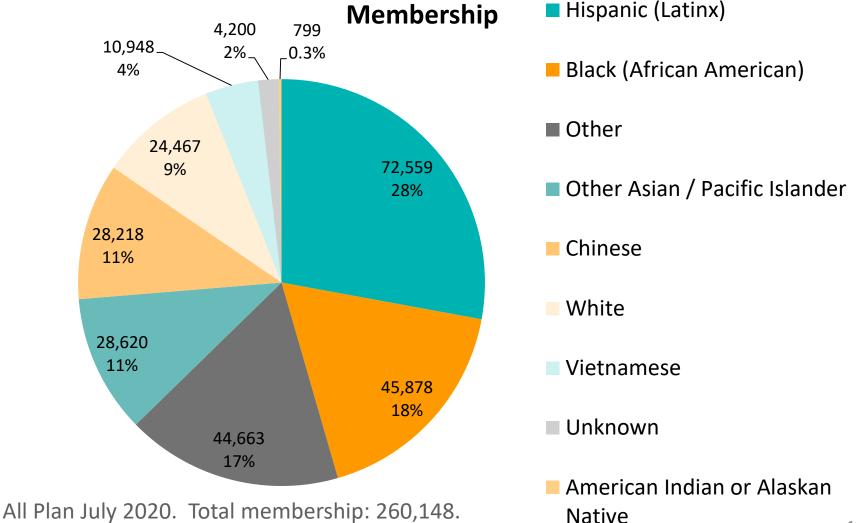
To read the entire statement, please visit <u>https://alamedaalliance.org/wp-</u> <u>content/uploads/Opposition-to-Structural-Racism-7-10-2020.pdf</u>



Alliance Membership

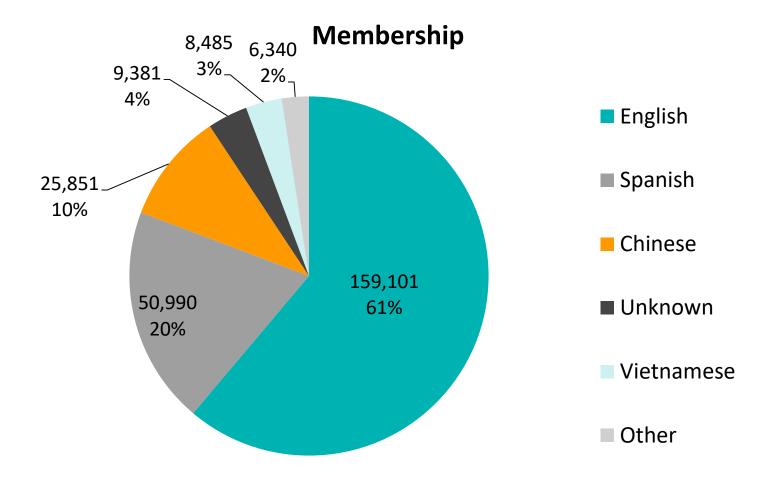


Alliance Membership by Ethnicity/Race



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Alliance Membership by Language



All Plan July 2020. Total membership: 260,148.

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Alliance Threshold Languages

By law, the Alliance and its delegates must translate all vital member documents and letters into our most common member languages.

What counts as a threshold language? Either 5% of membership or 3,000 members, 1,500 in two contiguous zip codes, or 1,000 in one zip code.

Medi-Cal:

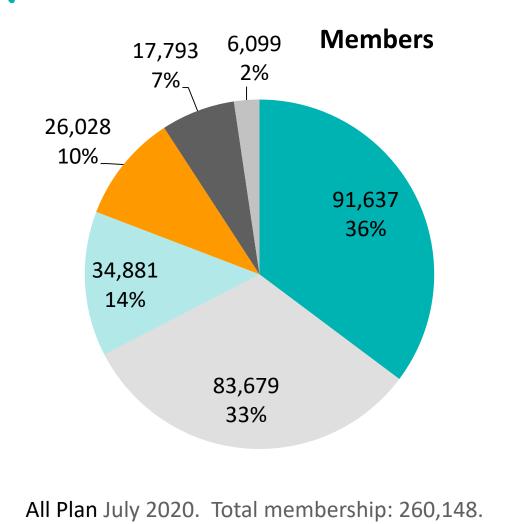
- English
- Spanish
- Chinese
- Vietnamese

Group Care (IHSS):

- English
- Chinese
- Spanish



Medi-Cal Membership by Aid Code/Plan



Child

Medi-Cal Expansion

Adult

SPD*

- Duals**
- Group Care

*SPD: Seniors and Persons with Disabilities ** Persons dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal

Embracing Culture and Differences

Cultural Humility





Why is culture important? Culture Impacts Every Health Care Encounter

- Who provides treatment
- What is considered a health problem
- What type of treatment
- Where is care sought
- How symptoms are expressed
- How rights and protections are understood





Cultural Sensitivity in Health Care

Effective care for people from different cultures

Elements:

- Awareness of one's own culture and biases
- Embrace the complexity of diversity
- Awareness and acceptance of differences
- Relate to members in ways that are most understandable
- Constant effort to understand the worldview of our members



Consider: Why not "cultural competency?" Cultural knowledge doesn't ensure culturally sensitive care. Each person's unique mix of cultures and experiences makes it impossible to achieve "competency."



"

Health Disparities

"Differences in the presence of disease, health outcomes, or access to health care between population groups."

Health Inequities

"Differences in health that are not only unnecessary and avoidable but, in addition are considered unfair and unjust."

- Boston Public Health Commission



Health Disparity or Inequity?

- Health Disparity: Male babies overall are born heavier than female babies.
 - Rooted in genetics
 - Unavoidable
- Health Inequity: Babies born to black women are more likely die in the first year than babies born to white women.
 - Some of the difference is due to poverty
 - Some links have been found to the stress of racism



Looking at Biases

- We all have unique experiences with people of different cultures.
- This can lead to attitudes or stereotypes that unconsciously affect how we think and act.
- These unconscious biases may not be the same as our declared beliefs.
- Yet, unconscious biases can be unlearned.
 Our brains are complex.
 New experiences and recognizing our biases can lead to new beliefs.





Golden & Platinum Rules of Service Golden Rule

Treat someone like **you** want to be treated – if your culture is similar to that of the member/patient.

Platinum Rule

Treat a person how *they* want to be treated – if your culture differs from the member/patient.

Service Score Segmentation of Diverse Populations, The Permanante Journal/Fall 2009/Volume 13 No. 4



Health Literacy

Health Literacy is the ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information.

It is critical for making good health decisions.





patients with low HEALTH LITERACY...

Image: constraint of the second state of the secon

www.cdc.gov/phpr





Health Literacy

Ways write clearly:

- Use plain language; define complex terms.
- Keep text at a 6th grade reading level or lower, required for health education content.
- To lower the reading level, use shorter sentences and fewer words of three syllables or more.
- Use bullets, bolding, symbols, graphics or pictures to help explain health messages.
- For members with very low literacy, also use step by step graphics or pictures, demonstrations and videos.
- Need tips for low literacy writing? Finding a low literacy resource? Please contact Alliance Health Education at <u>livehealthy@alamedaalliance.org</u>!



Health Literacy Examples

Define complex terms

Your primary doctor may refer you to a neurologist. A neurologist is a doctor who treats problems related to the brain and nervous system.

Use active sentences, not passive

- **Passive:** Tests may be needed to find out what's wrong.
- ▷ Active: You may need a test to find out what's wrong.

Use everyday examples to explain medical concepts

When you get a mammogram, the nurse will place your breasts between 2 plastic plates and take a picture of each breast.

Use pictures:



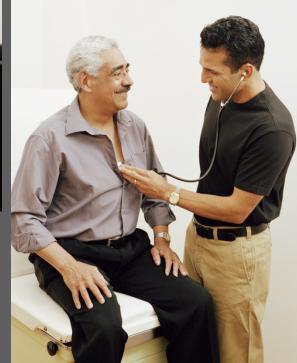
Benefits to Culturally Sensitive Alliance FOR HEALTH Communication Improve Safety and Adherence

Physician and Patient Satisfaction

Improve Office Process, Save Money and Time

Reduce Malpractice Risk





Communication with Diverse Members



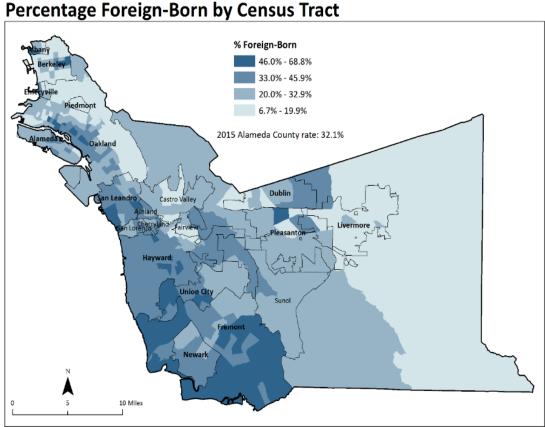


Communicating with Refugee and Immigrant Members





Immigrants in Alameda County



Source: CAPE, with data from American Community Survey, 2011-2015

Source: Alameda County Public Health, CAPE, with data from American Community Survey, 2011-2015

31% of county residents are foreign born.

43% speak a language other than English at home.

One (1) in two (2) children have a foreign-born parent.

Health Care for Refugees and Immigrants



Refugees and Immigrants may:

- Be concerned about their **personal information** being shared with government agencies, such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Delay seeking healthcare for fear of deportation or fear it will hurt their path to citizenship.
- Not be familiar with the U.S. health care system.
- Experience physical and behavioral health effects of stress and trauma.
- Have economic or social concerns that influence health decisions.



Alliance For Health

Public Charge

"Public Charge" is a term used by immigration officials to define someone that is likely to become primarily dependent on the government to support their day to day living.

- When? Starting February 24, 2020
- **Who?** Medi-Cal for adults is considered under "public charge" for the following groups:
 - → People who are applying to be Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) inside the US.
 - → People who are LPRs but have been outside the country for more than 6 months.
 - → Nonimmigrant visa holder (students, tourists, etc.) who would like to stay longer or change to a different visa.
 - → Public Charge is not considered when lawful permanent residents apply for citizenship.
 - Medi-Cal for children and pregnant women are not considered.
 - Some immigrants such as refugees, asylees, survivors of domestic violence will not have their use of Medi-Cal considered.

What?

- Alameda County Social Services encourages families to receive support that helps your family be healthy, fed, and secure.
- Immigrants should seek help from an attorney if they have questions.

Source: http://www.acphd.org/immigration-and-public-health/policies-and-legislation.aspx

Communicating with Refugees and Immigrants



- Assure your patients or patients' parents that their health information is confidential.
- Orient patients to managed care. Explain what Medi-Cal can cover, and what treatments aren't covered.
- Show respect for role of traditional practices, herbal remedies and traditional healers that may be used
- Offer referrals to culturally appropriate clinics and specialists.
- Recognize that level of acculturation*and individual experience make each person unique.

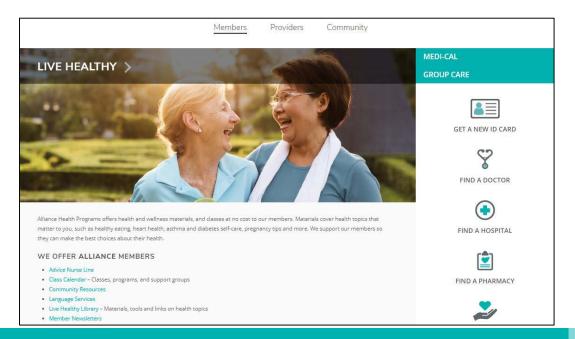
*Acculturation is the process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group.





Notes on Language

- There are a diversity of languages spoken, even within a country, or the same language, may have different dialects.
- ▷ Use "Point to Your Language" signs to help identify language when possible.
- Provide translated health education materials and instructions.
 - See <u>www.alamedaalliance.org/live-healthy</u> or <u>www.medlineplus.gov</u> for translated materials.





Spanish-Speaking Patients

- Spanish-speaking patients originate from a wide range of countries and cultures:
 - Mexico, Central America, South America, Caribbean.
 - Spanish may be a second language to an indigenous language, such as Mam.
 - Different regions may use words differently.





Chinese-Speaking Patients

- Cantonese: most common Chinese language in Alameda County.
- Mandarin: national language of China, growing numbers in Alameda County.
- There are two (2) main ways of writing Chinese: Traditional and Simplified.
- Alliance documents are translated into Traditional Chinese.



Communication with Patients

- Use plain words; avoid jargon, technical words and acronyms.
- Repeat important information.
- Offer/provide educational handouts in patient's language.
- Use pictures, demonstrations or video.
- Give information in small chunks.
- Check for understanding.



Source: Adapted from Industry Collaboration Effort, C & L Provider Toolkit, <u>www.iceforhealth.org</u>, 1/2017.



Religion and Healthcare

Consider:

- Diet
- Religious objects/clothing
- Modesty
- Role of prayer
- Beliefs about end of life and death





Scheduling a class or event? Consider these sacred times and dates for world religions: http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/







Religion and Healthcare

| Consider | Examples of religious beliefs and practices |
|---|--|
| Diet | Certain foods may be healing or cause harm. |
| Religious objects/clothing | Religious objects may be important to have close during procedures. There may be restrictions about when certain clothing may be removed. |
| Modesty | • A person's religion may inform whether they prefer a male or female doctor, and or they need a family member present. |
| Role of prayer | Daily prayer and prayer at certain times is important in many religions. |
| Beliefs about end-of life and death | Religious patients may want to consult with a priest, imam, monk or Rabbi prior to deciding about treatments. Beliefs may influence whether or not to withhold life-sustaining treatment. |



Best Practices

- Show respect for patients' health beliefs, religion and practices. Practice nonjudgement.
- Traditional medicine may be trusted and preferred, such as acupuncture, herbs, botanicals and massage.
- Western and traditional medicine may be used for treating different illnesses or used at the same time.
- Connect patients with providers and specialists who can meet members' cultural needs when possible.
- Extend respect to family members, and find out what role the patient wants them to play in their healthcare.





Communicating with LGBTQ+ Patients

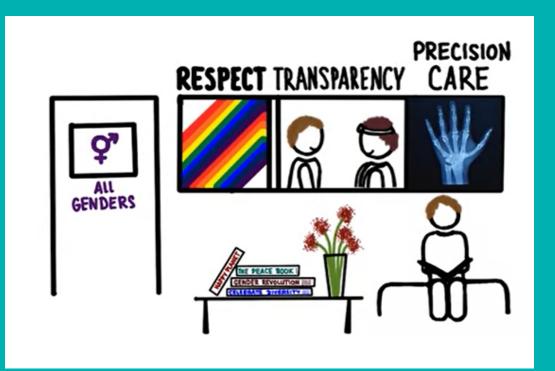
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning



Creating a Gender Inclusive Environment

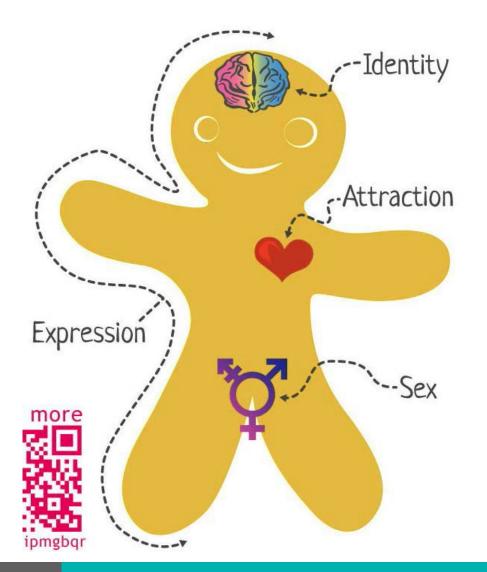


Stanford University Health Care Video (4:26 min) <u>www.youtube.com/watch?v=PU-ZTbykhul</u>





Genderbread Person



- Identity How we perceive ourselves on a man-ness to woman-ness to continuum.
- Attraction Sexual orientation both physical and romantic attraction.
- Gender Expression How we present our gender through actions, dress and demeanor.
- Biological Sex Physical characteristics we are born with and develop. Our Assigned Sex is assigned as male, female (or nonbinary) at birth based on anatomy.

Source: http://itspronouncedmetrosexual.com/



Gender Terminology

Gender Identity: An individual's internal sense of being male, female, both, neither or something else.

Transgender

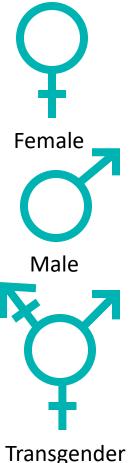
People whose gender identity does not match the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

Cisgender (pronounced sis-gender)

People whose gender identity matches the biological sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender Non-Conforming

People who express their gender differently than what is culturally expected of them regardless of their gender identity.



44



Gender Inclusive Pronouns

- Using the preferred pronouns shows respect
- ▷ How do I ask about pronouns if I'm unsure?
 - "How would you like me to address you?"
 - "What pronouns do you use?"
 - "My name is Linda, and my pronouns are she, her, hers. And you?"
- ▷ If you misspeak, apologize and move on
- What pronouns? (not an exhaustive list)
 - → He/Him/His/Himself
 - → She/Her/Hers/Herself
 - → They/Them/Their/Theirs/Themselves
 - → Ze (or Zie) pronounced "Zee"/Hir "Here"/Hirs "Heres"/Hirself "hereself"
 - → Just use the name (Ash ate Ash's food because Ash was hungry)



FOR HEAL

Sexual Orientation Terminology

Sexual Orientation: A person's emotional, sexual, and/or relational attraction to others.

- **Heterosexual:** One whose attraction and behaviors \triangleright are directed at the opposite sex
- **Lesbian**: Women whose attraction and behaviors are \triangleright directed at women
- **Gay**: Men whose attractions and behaviors are \triangleright directed at men
- **Bisexual:** One whose attractions and behaviors are \triangleright directed at both sexes to a significant degree.
- **Queer**: May be seen as a put down, yet some people \triangleright have reclaimed it as a general term for people who are not heterosexual or cisgender.
- **Other**: Celibate, non-sexual, other orientation. \triangleright



Communicating with LGBTQ+ Members



| We wish our health care team knew | Here's what your team can do |
|--|---|
| We come to you with an extra layer of anxiety. We are more likely than cisgender or heterosexual people to have been: Verbally or physically abused Rejected by our families due to our sexual and gender identity Discriminated against within the health care setting | A little warmth can make all the difference! Signage or intake form verbiage that is safe, judgment-free, and non-discriminatory Policies indicating nondiscrimination for sexual and gender identity displayed in common areas Ask if I prefer to be accompanied in the exam room Ask permission to touch before an exam |
| Assuming that heterosexual or cisgender is the norm prevents us from seeking care. | Expect not all patients to be heterosexual or cisgender Example: Do not assume a male patient's spouse is a wife, or vice-versa. Change options on forms to include option other than female/male and using images that are inclusive. |



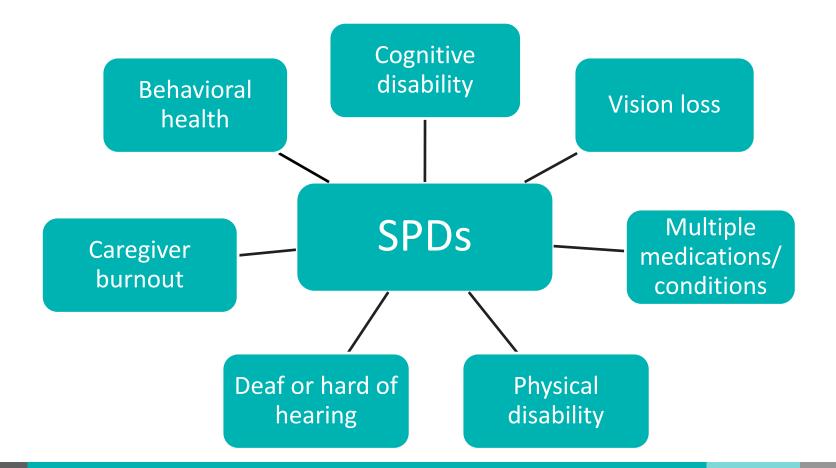
Communicating with Seniors (Older Adults) and Persons with Disabilities (SPD)



Working with Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities



SPDs may deal with multiple challenges to accessing quality healthcare.



Communication with Persons with Disabilities

Click on picture to view play button, or copy link into your browser

FOR



Disability Sensitivity Video (3:41 min)



Disability Etiquette Use Person-First Language



- Show respect by putting the person before the disability.
- The disability or the equipment they use is a descriptor.
- People with a disability are more like people without disabilities than different.



People First Examples

| BEST | AVOID |
|---|--|
| People or persons with disabilities. | The handicapped or disabled. |
| He has a cognitive disability. | He is mentally retarded. |
| She has autism. | She is autistic. |
| He has a physical disability. | He is a quadriplegic. |
| She uses a wheelchair. | She is wheelchair bound. |
| He has a mental health condition. | He's mentally ill. |
| Accessible parking, doctor's office, transportation, etc. | Handicapped parking, doctor's office, transportation, etc. |

Patients who have Mobility Impairments

- Don't push or touch someone's wheelchair.
- Don't lean on the chair.
- Bring yourself to their level to speak.
- Invisible mobility disabilities are common – don't assume you can tell by watching someone move.
- ▷ Ask before giving assistance.

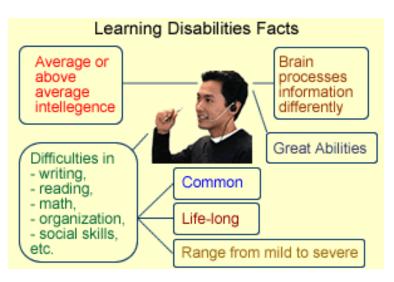






Patients with Learning Disabilities

- There are many forms of learning disabilities. Examples include:
 - Dyslexia
 - Auditory or Language Processing Disorders
 - Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
- ▷ Do:
 - Break ideas or processes into small steps and check for understanding
 - Present things both verbally and visually
 - Offer to read things aloud
 - Allow time; be patient
- **Don't:**
 - Ask to "hurry up"!





Patients with Speech Disorders

If you don't understand someone . . .

> Do

- Ask the person to repeat
- Repeat what you heard to make sure you understood correctly
- Offer pen and paper if an option
- Be patient

Don't

- Speak loudly or shout
- Finish a person's sentence or thought

"Could you please repeat that? I didn't catch what you said the first time."

Patients who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- Talk by phone using the California Relay Service (CRS): 711/TTY.
- Video phones may be used for people who communicate with sign language.
- Offer to arrange for qualified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for health care communications and appointments.
- Create trust: Face the person you are speaking with. Avoid side conversations.
- > **Ask members** what works best for them.









Tips for Using 711

- Speak slowly (call staff has to type everything you say).
- Speak directly to the person you are calling.
- Use "go ahead" when you finish speaking.
- Use "stop keying" when you want to end the call.





Patients who have Vision Loss

Communication strategies

- Identify yourself
- Offer to read text or documents
- Create documents in large font (20 pt. or per member preference)
- Translate key materials into braille upon request



Service Animals

⊳ Do

- If not sure, ask if the animal provides assistance for a disability.
- Recognize that service animals assist people with many different types of disabilities.
- Ask your supervisor for help if you are allergic to dogs or are fearful of being near a service animal.

Don't

- Deny a patient with a service animal entrance inside the clinics or Alliance offices.
- Pet any service animal or give it a treat without asking first.





Language Assistance Resources





Language Assistance Program

The Alliance has a Language Assistance Program that:

- Asks the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) for input on ways to better serve our members both culturally and linguistically.
- Holds quarterly Cultural and Linguistic (C&L) Services Sub-Committee meetings to monitor C&L services and address any concerns.
- Monitors **provider language capacity**.
- Ensures **bilingual staff** are assessed and monitored for quality.
- Tracks our member language preferences and ethnicities.
- Monitors our cultural and linguistic services through grievance and appeals review.

Interpreter Services: What's Covered

- All members are entitled to an interpreter at all points of contact for covered benefits.
- Points of contact include but not limited to:
 - Hospitals
 - Provider offices
 - Member services settings
 - Covered case management & health education
 - Administrative offices and facilities
- Offer interpreter services at the time of appointment scheduling.
- Note language preferences or refusal of qualified interpreters in the patient's record.





Interpreter Services: How to Access

- ▷ The Alliance contracts with vendors for interpreter services.
 - For 24/7 telephonic interpreter services, providers may call 1.510.809.3986.
 - Member requests for interpreters go through the Alliance Member Services Department 1.510.747.4567.
 - Providers requesting pre-scheduled interpreter services for members should fax the Alliance the Interpreter Services
 Appointment Request Form found at <u>www.alamedaalliance.org</u>. The request must be submitted at least five (5) working days prior to the appointment.
- Many contracted clinics also have qualified interpreters or bilingual staff on-site. Sites must keep proof of bilingual staff proficiency.
- Hospitals are required by state law to provide interpreter services to patients (AB 389 Chapter-327).





Alliance For health

Friends and Families as Interpreters?

Do not ask family members to interpret, unless it is an emergency. Do offer qualified interpreter services or qualified bilingual staff.

Children cannot interpret except in an emergency*. Document if a member requests a non-certified accompanying adult to interpret or if they refuse qualified interpreter services.

Document member language preferences.

* Emergency is defined as an immediate threat to the safety or welfare of an individual or the public. – Affordable Care Act, Section 1557



Tips for Working with Interpreters

- Hold a brief introductory discussion
 - Your name, organization and nature of the call/visit
 - Reassure the patient about confidentiality
- > Allow enough time
- > Avoid interrupting
- Speak in a normal voice; not too fast or too loudly
- Speak in short sentences
- > Avoid acronyms, medical jargon



Tips for Working with Interpreters

▷ If in person:

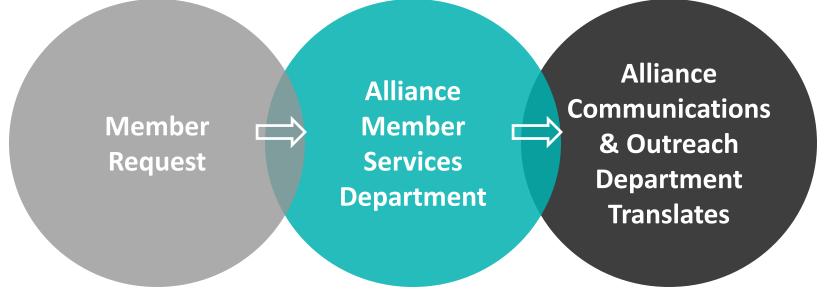
- Face and talk to the member directly.
- Be aware of how your personal space, stance and gestures may be understood in other cultures.
- Take clues from the body language, position, eye contact of the member.
- Ask the member if they look confused.



Would you like to see an example? Check out this video: <u>www.tisnational.gov.au/About-TIS-National/Videos/Hints-and-tips-for-</u> <u>working-with-interpreters-video.aspx</u>

Member Informing Material Translations

- Alliance members have the right to have member material translated into their preferred reading language or a preferred alternative format such as braille, large font, or audio.
- > The Alliance has **21 days** to fill the request.
- Members may call Member Services at 1.510.747.4567 to make a request.



FOR HEA



Provider Directory & Member Handbook (EOC)

- The Provider Directory helps Alliance members to find providers that fit their preferences (language, gender, location, accessibility, etc.)
- The Alliance Member Handbook (also called Evidence of Coverage, EOC) describes how to access language assistance and how to file grievances.
- The Member Handbook and Provider Directory are available in print form, on our website, and in all our threshold languages.

Alliance FOR HEALTH

Member Handbook

What you need to know about your benefits

Alameda Alliance for Health Combined Evidence of Coverage (EOC) and Disclosure Form

Cultural Sensitivity Requires Lifelong Learning

Ask respectful questions, and question assumptions.

Learn more at:

- Think Culture Health: <u>https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov</u>
- Stanford University, Ethnogeriatics:
 <u>https://geriatrics.stanford.edu/culturemed.html</u>
- EthnoMed: <u>https://ethnomed.org/culture</u>
- University of Pennsylvania Health Services Religion and Healthcare: <u>www.uphs.upenn.edu/pastoral/resed</u>
- National LGBT Health Education Center: <u>www.lgbthealtheducation.org</u>
- Better Communication, Better Care: Provider Tools to Care for Diverse Populations by the Industry Collaboration Effort, ICE.
 www.iceforhealth.org/library/documents/Better Communication, B etter Care - Provider Tools to Care for Diverse Populations.pdf







Please Note:

- The Alliance recognizes within this training that there exists an opportunity to better capture and communicate culture diversity and sensitivity concerns for the African American population.
- We are committed to ensuring that the voices, concerns, and available resources for all ethnic groups is communicated in our annual Cultural Sensitivity Training.
- We will update the training and post updated slides to <u>alamedaalliance.org/providers/provider</u> <u>-resources/training-and-technical-</u> <u>assistance-opportunities</u> when available.
- The Alliance welcomes and values your feedback on our Cultural Sensitivity Training.





Thank You!

For questions about the presentation and the Alliance Cultural and Linguistics Services Program, please contact:

Linda Ayala, MPH Manager, Health Education 1.510.747.6038 Iayala@alamedaalliance.org