

Ra'ufa Sherry Tuell, *Islamic Approaches to Patient Care* (Beltsville, MD: Amana Publications, 2011), 206 pp.

This book is divided into three areas; five chapters address Islamic history, authority, and the beliefs of Muslims; ten chapters highlight areas of concern during hospitalization; and thirdly, a biography and an extensive list of appendices that provide a practical guide for spiritual care to Muslims.

Chapter one addresses in brief the history of Islam and the diversity of Muslims, including American Muslims. Chapters two and three list the basic foundations of Islamic belief and the rituals that Muslims perform. Chapters four and five creatively distinguish between the sources of Islamic jurisprudence and the various leadership forms that guide the Muslim community. In chapter six, Chaplain Tuell touches upon the spiritual needs of practicing Muslim patients and recommends the method for discovering spiritual needs of patients during an assessment. In chapters seven through fifteen, the book lists Islamic perspectives on topics such as abortion, circumcision, fertility, and death. This practical guide helps a chaplain to understand the permissibility of performing certain medical procedures from an Islamic perspective, opinions of various theological schools, and offers ways for providing spiritual care to Muslim patients during such times. Finally, Muslims, chaplains, and spiritual care volunteers will find the list of appendices useful when providing spiritual care to Muslim patients.

Islamic Approaches to Patient Care is a comprehensive resource that provides an array of medical, cultural, and religious issues that will aid the care teams, especially hospital chaplains, in advocating and facilitating the needs of Muslim patients. The booklet opens the door for further discovery of individualized spiritual care needs of Muslim patients or potential barriers to communicating or receiving spiritual care needs.

The diversity of Muslim patients is the key to understanding what services Muslims might require. Chaplain Tuell, a Sufi Muslim, highlights the surface differences between Sunni and Shiite, immigrant and indigenous African Americans, or devout and secular Muslims. The book is a practical guide and a step forward in bridging the gap in resources on how to care for Muslim patients.

Can one book explain how to care for patients, especially Muslim patients? Islam continues to be in need of demystification and the needs of Muslim patients are ever-changing. Chaplain Tuell provides an opportunity for medical and spiritual care providers to examine the theology that is important to Muslims and offers practical ways on how to care for Muslim patients dealing with various medical situations.

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