

## Racial Prejudice

An outside consultant may also be helpful for this section.

### A. Knowledge

- Definition of Racism

- Extent of racism

- Effect of racism on infants, children, parents (how racism may affect behavior of the patient or parent e.g., tense, deferential, suspicious, defensive)

- Powerlessness

- Political discrimination

- Labeling

- Stereotyping

- Racial subgroups

- Effect of varying levels of acculturation

- Racial discrimination

### B. Skills

- Communication skills

  - Removing condescension and patronizing attitudes

  - Showing respect for patient's race

  - Asking open ended questions so as not to assume information based on patient's race or class

- Understanding cultural values/language of patients

### C. Attitudes

- Understanding that patients may have preconceived notions about how they will be treated based on their race

- Acceptance of cultural ambiguities

- Acknowledgment of/respect for patient's race

- Treating each patient/family individually - not making assumptions based on race

### D. Barriers

- Institutionalized racism

- Provider racism (acknowledged or unexplored)

- Ethnocentrism

- Lack of ability to communicate in patient's language

- Lowering of expectations by provider

### E. Advocacy

- Political work to pass appropriate civil rights legislation

Advocacy within institutions to establish culturally sensitive staff and services

#### References

Harwood, Alan (ed): *Ethnicity in Medical Care*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, 1981.

Pinderhughes, Elaine. *Understanding Race, Ethnicity and Power: The key to efficacy in clinical practice*. The Free Press. New York, 1989.