

Cultural Competence and Diversity in

Cultural Competence and Diversity in Healthcare Ethics

1. Introduction

- Cultural competence in healthcare ethics means applying moral principles in ways that respect diverse values.
- It recognises that ethical norms can vary across cultural and religious groups.

2. Key Concepts

- **Cultural relativism:** the view that beliefs should be understood within their own culture.
- **Moral pluralism:** acknowledging that different valid value systems coexist.

3. Ethics and Diversity

- Concepts such as autonomy and consent may be interpreted differently across cultures.
- Family or community-centred decision making may take precedence over the individual.

4. Practical Application

- Respect patients' beliefs while upholding core ethical and legal duties.
- Use interpreters and cultural mediators to ensure understanding.

5. Balancing Conflicts

- Some cultural practices may conflict with patient safety or rights.
- Professionals must negotiate respectfully without abandoning ethical standards.

6. Summary

- Culturally competent ethics blends respect for diversity with universal principles.
- It promotes fair, sensitive, and effective care for all patients.