MINISTERIO DE EDUCACIÓN, CIENCIA Y TECNOLOGÍA
INSTITUTO NACIONAL ALEJANDRO DE HUMBOLDT
CÓDIGO: 10052 – AHUACHAPÁN, AHUACHAPÁN

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

LEVEL: _____

DATE: _____

WORKSHEET 1

DEATH AND DYING CUSTOMS

Death is a cultural as well as a biological event. It is important for you to be aware of the cultural and religious beliefs and customs of your dying patients and their families. These guidelines will help you to respond in an appropriate way in order to provide a culturally-aware service.



ISLAM

When a Muslim dies in hospital, the family may experience a great deal of anxiety if they feel that healthcare staff are unfamiliar with Muslim traditions. Firstly, it is important to put on some gloves so that you do not touch the body directly. The face of the person who has died should be turned towards Mecca. Straighten the arms and legs and close the mouth and eyes. After death, the body is washed by family members of the same sex and is wrapped in white linen cloth. According to Islamic tradition, a dead person should be buried as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours. A Muslim is always buried, never cremated. Post-mortem examinations are discouraged unless they are required by law.

Activity 1 - Match the words from the list below with their correct definitions based on the text.

1. Anxiety
2. Healthcare
3. Traditions
4. Linen
5. Cremated
6. Post-mortem
7. Discouraged
8. Examination

a. A type of fabric often used for wrapping the body in the context of the text.
b. The practice of burning the body after death.
c. The process of inspecting or analyzing something, especially after death.
d. A feeling of worry or unease.
e. Medical services or care provided to individuals.
f. A practice or set of customs followed by a particular group.
g. Not recommended or advised against.
h. An assessment or check-up, typically to determine cause or condition.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8



BUDDHISM

According to Buddhist beliefs, the soul departs and begins the journey into another new life. For Buddhists, death is a process in which the consciousness gradually separates from the body. This can take up to three days, which is when death occurs. It is very important to provide as much peace and quiet for the dying person as possible. The person must be composed and calm to have the opportunity for a better rebirth. Immediately following signs of physical death, Buddhists believe that it is best to keep the body in a peaceful state. Traditionally, the body is taken to the home, and for a period of three days so prayers are said and the body is not touched. The deceased may be cremated or buried, depending on the wishes of the family. Generally speaking, post-mortems are acceptable as the body is considered less important after death.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Activity 2: Determine whether each statement is **true** or **false** based on the text provided.

1. According to Buddhist beliefs, the soul departs into another new life immediately after death. _____
2. The consciousness gradually separates from the body, and this process can take up to five days. _____
3. It is important to provide as much noise and disturbance as possible for the dying person. _____
4. Keeping the mind calm and composed at the time of death is believed to lead to a better rebirth. _____
5. After death, Buddhists believe that the body should be touched frequently to ensure a smooth transition. _____
6. Traditionally, the body is taken to the home where people pray for a period of three days. _____
7. The deceased can be either cremated or buried according to the family's wishes. _____
8. Post-mortems are generally not acceptable in Buddhist practices. _____



JUDAISM

By religious law, someone should stay with the dying person so that the soul does not feel alone. The body should also not be left alone after death. It is important to leave in place any catheters, drains, and tubes, as the fluid in them is considered to be part of the body, and must be buried with it. Cover them with gauze or bandages. Any wound dressings that have body fluids on them must also be left on the body. Any incisions or cuts must be covered. The body is prepared for burial as soon as possible after death, preferably within 24 hours. The body is prepared by members of the chevra kaddisha, or burial society, and the body is covered with a sheet. Post-mortem examinations are discouraged, unless they are required by law.

Activity 3: Complete the ideas with one word only.

1) Preferred time frame for preparing the body for burial after death: _____ hours
2) People stay with the dying person so the soul doesn't feel: _____
3) catheters, drains, and tubes are left after death to be: _____ with the body
4) They are responsible for preparing the body for burial: _____
5) Incisions or cuts have to be: _____
6) This covers the body before the burial: _____
7) This is not appropriate unless it's required by law: _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS