

5

Appreciating the Role of Culture in Health Care



CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

By the end of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Define health, sickness, illness, and disease from a cultural perspective.
2. Discuss how perceptions of the body reflect cultural meanings.
3. Discuss the effect of culture on perceptions of what causes sickness.
4. Define the concept of a culture-bound syndrome, using a variety of examples.
5. Discuss the ways in which individuals learn the roles associated with illness and disability.
6. Describe the role of cultural factors in health *self-care* in various cultures.
7. Compare and contrast access to and quality of health care in the United States to other countries.
8. Describe characteristics of traditional healers, and compare and contrast those with health care professionals in the United States.
9. Discuss the ways in which culture affects delivery of health care, with an emphasis on the interaction of organizational and professional culture with the patient's culture.

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is.

Attributed to Jan L. A. van de Snepscheut (1953-1994), computer scientist at Cal Tech
