

and time orientation also affect a family's response to illness or chronic condition in a child ([Carnevale, Alexander, Davis, et al, 2006](#); [Dell'Api, Rennick, and Rosmus, 2007](#); [Wiener, McConnell, Latella, et al, 2013](#)).

When parents are informed of their child's chronic illness, interpreters familiar with both culture and language should be used. Children, family members, and friends of the family should not be used as translators, because their presence may prevent parents from openly discussing the issues. When working with people of cultural backgrounds different from their own, nurses must listen carefully with an initial goal of understanding and articulating the family's perspective. The ability to interpret the mainstream medical culture to the family is also important. Furthermore, every effort is made to incorporate traditional cultural beliefs of a family into treatment plans. It is important to keep in mind that “cultural norms” may not always apply to every family from a shared background. Developing a care plan in conjunction with the family, considering their preferences and priorities, is an important first step in formulating a plan that best meets the family's needs, no matter what their cultural background ([Coker, Rodriguez, and Flores, 2010](#); [Thibodeaux and Deatricks, 2007](#); [Wiener, McConnell, Latella, et al, 2013](#)).

Shared Decision Making

Shared decision making among the child, family, and health care team can result from open, honest, culturally sensitive communication and the establishment of a therapeutic relationship among the family and health care providers. In a shared decision-making model, the health care professionals provide honest, clear information regarding diagnosis, prognosis, treatment options, and risk–benefit assessment. The patient and family then share information with the health care team regarding important family values, acceptable levels of discomfort or inconvenience, and the ability to comply with treatments being recommended ([Kon, 2010](#); [Wiener, McConnell, Latella, et al, 2013](#); [Wyatt, List, Brinkman, et al, 2015](#)). This process allows them to discuss all options in terms of the risks and benefits to the child and family, the prognosis or expected course of the illness, and the impact on the family's resources ([Box 17-1](#)). Together, the parents and health care team can make