

Unified Health Communication:

Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency



Job Aid

Models for Promoting Culturally Competent Patient-Provider Communication

ETHNIC Model

ETHNIC, a framework for culturally competent clinical practice, includes questions to bring out information about a patient's explanation of illness, treatment, and healers, along with negotiation, intervention, and collaboration about treatment. ETHNIC stands for:

E—Explanation: Ask questions to allow the patient to provide an explanation of his or her illness

T—Treatment: Ask questions about how the patient is treating his or her illness

H—Healers: Ask about the use of healers

N—Negotiation: Negotiate options that incorporate your patient's beliefs and that will be mutually acceptable to you and your patient

I—Intervention: Determine an intervention with your patient

C—Collaboration: Collaborate with the patient and his or her support system



The content for this material was excerpted from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health—*A Physician's Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care*. Available at: https://cccm.thinkculturalhealth.org/default.asp