

5.4 Culture and Health

These sites can help teachers gain insight into the health beliefs and practices of English language learners' native cultures and the cultural challenges ELLs might encounter in U.S. health care.

- **[CLAS Act Virginia: Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Health Care Services](#)**
From the Virginia Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, this extensive website presents a variety of resources on culturally and linguistically appropriate health care in Virginia.
- **Commonwealth Fund YouTube Videos on Culture and Health Care**
These documentary videos show immigrants to the U.S. trying to communicate about their health with their U.S. health care providers. The videos provide interesting perspective on cultural divides between provider and patient as well as other health care communication barriers.
 - **[Mohammad's Story](#)**
 - **[Alicia's Story](#)**
 - **[Justine's Story](#)**
- **[Cultural Diversity in Healthcare](#)**
This site features articles and reports from Geri-Ann Galanti, an anthropologist specializing in culture and health care.
- **[Cultural Orientation Resource Center](#)**
This website focused on refugee cultural and community orientation is a project of the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL).
- **[CulturedMed](#)**
This online resource collection is made available by Binghamton University in New York.
- **[Ethnomed](#)**
This ethnicity and medicine website is a project of University of Washington's Harborview Medical Center.



The following sites offer information on cultural and linguistic challenges learners might face in U.S. health care ***from the health care provider perspective***.

- [**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality: Improving Patient Safety Systems for Patients With Limited English Proficiency: A Guide for Hospitals: Executive Summary**](#)

While a key focus of this document is the importance of medical interpretation use by hospitals, it can also give adult educators insight into the different experiences LEP patients have in health care due to linguistic and, sometimes, cultural barriers.

- [**California Primary Care Association: Providing Health Care to Limited English Proficient \(LEP\) Patients: A Manual of Promising Practices**](#)

This document explains policies and standards relating to the care of LEP patients and describes examples of ways different health systems provide communication assistance to LEP patients.

- [**Dimensions of Culture: Cross-Cultural Communications for Healthcare Professionals**](#)

This very readable blog maintained by the Director of Intercultural Communication for Colorado's Children's Healthcare Access Program provides many tips and case examples relating to intercultural communication in health care.

- [**The New York Times: Doctors Miss Cultural Needs, Study Says**](#)

This 2008 article by Kevin Sack explores the connection between culture, health care, and health disparities.

- [**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health \(2001\): National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care: Final Report**](#)

- [**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health \(2013\): The National CLAS Standards**](#)

