

Table 14-1: Hispanic Cultural Themes That Can Influence Palliative Care

Theme for Provider	Meaning	Implication
Familismo	<p>Emphasis on the well-being of the family over the individual</p> <p>Patient isolation due to family homophobia</p>	<p>Include family members in health care and end-of-life discussions</p>
Personalismo	<p>Trust-building over time, based on the display of mutual respect</p>	<p>Learn about patients and their culture</p> <p>Personal and open communication</p>
Jerarquismo	<p>Respect for authority</p> <p>Patient and families may have unrealistic treatment expectations</p>	<p>Check whether patient is withholding information out of deference to provider</p>
Presentismo	<p>Emphasis on the present, not on the past or the future</p>	<p>Patient and families may avoid end-of-life discussions and advance directives</p>
Espiritismo	<p>Belief in good and evil spirits that can affect health and well-being</p>	<p>Patients may seek spiritual healers such as <i>curanderos</i>, instead of standard treatment</p>
Fatalismo	<p>Fate determines life outcomes, including health, and is unbeatable</p>	<p>Patients may be reluctant to seek care</p>

Source: Adapted from references 15 and 27.