Record Nr.	UNINA9910349554903321
Autore	Searight H. Russell
Titolo	Ethical challenges in multi-cultural patient care : cross cultural issues at the end of life / / H. Russell Searight
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham, Switzerland : , : Springer, , [2019] 2019
ISBN	3-030-23544-0
Edizione	[1st ed. 2019.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (vii, 107 pages)
Collana	SpringerBriefs in Ethics, , 2211-8101
Disciplina	174.24
Soggetti	Multiculturalism
	Terminal care - Moral and ethical aspects
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Introduction to the Topic Chapter 2. Ethical Theories Influencing Health Care Decisions Chapter 3. Social Factors Influencing End-of-Life Decision-Making Chapter 4. Physician Communication Chapter 5. Representing the Seriously III Patient's Interests Chapter 6. Legal and Policy Issues Influencing End-of-Life Decisions Chapter 7. Conclusion—Future Directions.
Sommario/riassunto	This book provides an up-to-date description of cross-cultural aspects of end-of-life decision-making. The work places this discussion in the context of developments in the United States such as the emphasis on patient informed consent, "right to die" legal cases, and the federal Patient Self-Determination Act. With the globalization of health care and increased immigration from developing to developed countries, health care professionals are experiencing unique challenges in communicating with seriously ill patients and their families about treatment options as well as counselling all patients about advance medical care planning. While many Western countries emphasize individual autonomy and patient-centered decision-making, cultures with a greater collectivist orientation have, historically, often protected patients from negative health information and emphasized family- centered decision-making. In order to place these issues in context, the history of informed consent in medicine is reviewed. Additionally, cross-cultural issues in health care decision-making are analysed from

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the perspective of multiple philosophical theories including deontology, utilitarianism, virtues, principlism, and communitarian ethics. This book is a valuable addition to courses on end-of-life care, death and dying, cross-cultural health, medical anthropology, and medical ethics and an indispensable guide for healthcare workers dealing with patients coming from various cultural backgrounds.