



# Patient Worldview

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# Defining Worldview

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- > Patient worldview refers to the lens through which individuals interpret and make meaning of their experiences.
- > It is influenced by culture, history, social identities, values, and lived realities.

# Role of Lived Experiences

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- > A patient's past experiences—such as trauma, resilience, access to resources, and interactions with healthcare systems—shape how they perceive and engage with BHSS.
- > Experiences of discrimination, support, or marginalization inform levels of trust, openness, and willingness to engage in care.

# Impact of Identities

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- > Social group identities (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, ability, religion, etc.) intersect to influence how patients view themselves and the world.
- > These identities can be sources of both strength (cultural healing practices, community support) and vulnerability (stigma, exclusion).

# Promoting Cultural Humility

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- Self-awareness fosters humility, reminding BHSS that they are not “experts” in a patient’s lived experience.
- This humility opens space for curiosity, respect, and collaboration with patients.

# Privilege and Oppression

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- Systems of privilege afford some patients unearned advantages (e.g., economic security, societal acceptance), while systems of oppression create barriers and disadvantages (e.g., racism, sexism, homophobia).
- Patients often experience both privilege and marginalization across different aspects of their identity, shaping their worldview in complex ways.

# Dynamic and Contextual

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- A patient's worldview is not static—it shifts based on context, relationships, and environments.
- BHSS must approach patients with humility and openness, recognizing that worldview may not always be explicitly shared or immediately visible.

# Implications for Practice

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- Understanding patient worldview requires active listening, empathy, and cultural humility.
- BHSS who honor patient worldviews strengthen trust, reduce assumptions, and foster more authentic helping relationships.
- Failure to recognize worldview risks reinforcing bias, eroding trust, and delivering interventions that feel irrelevant or harmful to patients.