

## ***Virtual Mentor***

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### **IN THE LITERATURE**

#### **Culture and Ethnicity in Clinical Care**

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Articles and books on bioethics continue to expand in both number and the range of topics discussed: between 1989 and 1998, more than 4000 articles alone were published in MEDLINE-cited journals. Some of the major topics examined are the patient-physician relationship, end-of-life care, reproductive medicine, genetics, and the allocation of scarce medical resources. From these publications, we will be selecting a handful of articles and chapters, some of which reflect issues of perennial concern to physicians, others reflect more recent quandries resulting from advances in biomedical technology

A new article or book chapter will be featured every month, accompanied by questions intended to guide readers along the path of ethical reasoning and to promote discussion.

#### **November Article**

Berger JT. Culture and ethnicity in clinical care. *Arch Intern Med.* 1998;158:2085-2090.

#### **Questions for Berger Article**

Some patients from non-Western cultures have difficulty trusting Western physicians.

- What would be a way of cultivating trust between physicians and patients from these cultures?
- What ethical and cultural issues should a physician consider when treating a patient from a certain ethnic group or culture who insists on using alternative forms of medicine?

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