

Scenario Case Histories

You may want to consider these case histories as you discuss cultural competence with your teammates. Consider how cultural issues related to each of these case histories.

Discuss the following case histories with a critical eye towards the impact of culture.

1. A 42-year-old domestic worker is referred for evaluation of severe depression. She is an immigrant from El Salvador and a mother of five. She last saw her children four years ago at which time she illegally came to the US and is now seeking legal residence.
2. A 23-year-old African woman is being evaluated for profuse vaginal bleeding and painful intercourse. She underwent involuntary cliterectomy while in Africa several years ago.
3. Three siblings are referred to a community-based clinic with active tuberculosis. They were all born in the US and have not traveled out of the country. An aunt from South America stayed at their small apartment last year. The children are enrolled in Medicaid managed care in the District of Columbia but all were assigned to different primary care providers who are not fluent in Spanish. The children are bilingual but the parents only speak Spanish.