

## 6. Cultural Identity

**Related Core CFI Questions:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Some of the core CFI question are repeated below and are marked with an asterisk (\*). The CFI question that is repeated is indicated in brackets.

**GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER:** *This module aims to further clarify the individual's cultural identity and how this has influenced the individual's health and well being. The following questions explore the individual's cultural identity and how this may have shaped his or her current problem. We use the word **culture** broadly to refer to all the ways the individual understands his or her identity and experience in terms of groups, communities or other collectivities, including national or geographic origin, ethnic community, racialized categories, gender, sexual orientation, social class, religion/spirituality, and language.*

**INTRODUCTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BEING INTERVIEWED:** Sometimes peoples' background or identity influences their experience of illness and the type of care they receive. In order to better help you, I would like to understand your own background or identity. By background or identity I mean, for example, the communities you belong to, the languages you speak, where you or your family are from, your racial or ethnic background, your gender or sexual orientation, and your faith or religion.

### **National, Ethnic, Racial Background**

1. Where were you born?
2. Where were your parents and grandparents born?
3. How would you describe your family's national, ethnic, and/or racial background?
4. In terms of your background, how do you usually describe yourself to people outside your community? Sometimes people describe themselves somewhat differently to members of their own community. How do you describe yourself to them?
5. Which part of your background do you feel closest to? Sometimes this varies, depending on what aspect of your life we are talking about. What about at home? Or at work? Or with friends?
6. Do you experience any difficulties related to your background, such as discrimination, stereotyping, or being misunderstood?
7. \*Is there anything about your background that might impact on your [PROBLEM] or impact on your health or health care more generally? [RELATED TO CFI Q#9.]

### **Language**

8. What languages do you speak fluently?
9. What languages did you speak growing up?
10. What languages are spoken at home? Which of these do you speak?
11. What languages do you use at work or school?
12. What language would you prefer to use in getting health care?
13. What languages do you read? Write?

### **Migration**

**GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER:** *If the individual was born in another country, ask questions 1-7. [For refugees, refer to the module on Immigrants and Refugees to obtain more detailed migration history.]*

14. When did you come to this country?
15. What made you decide to leave your country of origin?
16. How has your life changed since coming here?
17. What do you miss about the place or community you came from?
18. What are your concerns for your own and your family's future here?
19. What is your current status in this country (e.g., refugee claimant, citizen, student visa, work permit)?  
*Be aware this may be a sensitive or confidential issue for the individual, if they have precarious status.*
20. How has migration influenced your health or that of your family?
21. Is there anything about your migration experience or current status in this country that has made a difference to your [PROBLEM]?
22. Is there anything about your migration experience or current status that might influence your ability to get the right kind of help for your [PROBLEM]?

**Spirituality, Religion, and Moral Traditions**

23. Do you identify with any particular religious, moral or spiritual tradition?

**GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER:** *In the next question, the individual's own words should be used to replace "[NAME(S) OF SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS OR MORAL TRADITION(S)]".*

24. What role does [NAME(S) OF SPIRITUAL, RELIGIOUS OR MORAL TRADITION(S)] play in your everyday life?

25. Do your family members share your spiritual, religious or moral traditions? Can you tell me more about that?

**Gender Identity**

**INTRODUCTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BEING INTERVIEWED:** Some individuals feel that their gender [e.g. the social roles and expectations they have related to being male, female, transgender, genderqueer, or intersex] influences their health and the kind of health care they need.

**GUIDE TO INTERVIEWER:** *In the examples below, the individual's own words should be used to replace "[GENDER]". The interviewer may need to exemplify or explain the term "GENDER" with relevant wording (e.g., "being a man," "being a transgender woman").*

26. Do you feel that your [GENDER] has influenced your [PROBLEM] or your health more generally?

27. Do you feel that your [GENDER] has influenced your ability to get the kind of health care you need?

28. Do you feel that health care providers have certain assumptions or attitudes about you or your [PROBLEM] because of your [GENDER]?

**Sexual Orientation Identity**

**INTRODUCTION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BEING INTERVIEWED:** Sexual orientation may also be important to individuals and their comfort in seeking health care. I would like to ask you some questions about your sexual orientation. Are you comfortable answering questions about your sexual orientation?

29. How would you describe your sexual orientation (e.g., heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, pansexual, asexual)?

30. Do you feel that your sexual orientation has influenced your [PROBLEM] or your health more generally?

31. Do you feel that your sexual orientation influences your ability to get the kind of health care you need for your [PROBLEM]?

32. Do you feel that health care providers have assumptions or attitudes about you or your [PROBLEM] that are related to your sexual orientation?

**Summary**

33. You have told me about different aspects of your background and identity and how this has influenced your health and well being. Are there other aspects of your identity I should know about to better understand your health care needs?

34. What are the most important aspects of your background or identity in relation to [PROBLEM]?