

Orthodox Jewish --- Population

Chaim Sender 2023

Prayers

- Prayers take place three times a day in a formal setting with a quorum of ten men present.
- During the morning prayer the prayer shawl and *Tefillin* are worn. (Note: many people will not eat until they have completed this prayer.)
- The afternoon and evening prayers take about 15 minutes.

Prayer Shawl and Tefillin



Kosher

- The laws of Kosher are detailed and complex. Part of the laws consist of not eating milk and meat together. That being said, there are many non-kosher ingredients mixed into many foods. This created a need for kosher certification. Kosher food is a big challenge in a hospital setting. There is no kosher kitchen in RWJBH hospitals, so all food is prepared by caterers and are microwaved on-site.

Cultural Etiquette

- Men and women do not touch each other in public. This includes husband and wife. This is relevant for handshaking as well.
- While men wear a *Yarmulke*, married women wear other head coverings and do not expose certain parts of their bodies.
- *Shabbos/Sabbath*- Begins Friday sundown through Saturday night.
- Not to do: Any constructive act which creates something anew. This includes; starting a car, turning on lights, signing documents. It may include trivial things such as opening bottles and tissue boxes.

To Treat or not to Treat

- Important: Jewish laws dictate when to treat and when not to treat. These laws may not be consistent with what medical personnel consider worthwhile treating. Additionally, there are Jewish laws that define death, which may differ from the view of science. These differences contribute a considerable amount of stress when dealing with illness in a hospital setting. Your ability to remain culturally sensitive is of utmost importance.

End of Life

- Loud crying or noises are to be avoided and one who does not have the ability to control their emotions may be asked to leave the room. When practical a quorum of ten men should be present.
- Often, the burial society will come to collect the body, and all body fluids, directly from the room before the patient is brought to the hospital morgue. The burial will be done as soon after death as possible for a variety of reasons.
- All, mourning, grieving, as well as formal prayers are suspended until the funeral. The grieving process begins after the funeral.