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## Subcultural Narratives of Pediatric Chronic Illness in the Arab Community

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### Abstract

The experience of pediatric populations and their families with chronic illness and overall health conditions, involves multiple variables. This paper will explore the dynamics of such variables, particularly as it pertains to the Gulf region of the Arab population. Preexisting research demonstrates the multi-faceted dimensions of pediatric illness as it impacts acceptance, compliance, and overall coping and quality of life. Within the Gulf community, it is imperative to integrate the complex nature of the family unit into treatment planning and management including gender and familial roles, and overall familial processes and dynamics. Cultural and spiritual perceptions of childhood development and illness also impart a role in adaptive coping and mediate ethical considerations within the sub-context of communication and decision making. Implications for the role of the mental health care professional and future research will also be overviewed.

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