

Does Religion Influence Patient Satisfaction?

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Objectives: To determine if patient satisfaction varies by level of individual religiosity. **Methods:** Data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a nationally representative sample of older adults in the United States, were used to assess the relationship between religious salience (importance) and patients' satisfaction with their health care encounters. **Results:** Higher levels of religious salience are signifi-

cantly related to being very satisfied with one's health care, even after demographic, social, and health variables are taken into account. **Conclusions:** Researchers, practitioners, and administrators should be aware that religion may significantly influence how patients rate their health care experiences.

Key words: religion, patient satisfaction, health care, aging

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