



# Ethnic Minority Members and Cancer

## A Guide for aid workers

(Allochtonen en Kanker: Gids voor Hulpverleners)

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This research project in co-operation with the Flemish League against Cancer (VLK) explored intercultural issues affecting immigrants in Belgium diagnosed with cancer.

From 2005 to 2007, five research teams explored the then-fragmented field of expertise around cancer treatment in different ethnic minority groups.

A broad scope of voices and experiences was captured through in-depth interviews with intercultural mediators, medical doctors, health care service providers as well as patients and their relatives. This was combined with participant observation in different social service and medical facilities, as well as with focus group interviews.

The collected data was analysed by the Expeditions team in close collaboration with the VLK experts. The insights from this analysis were condensed into 21 recurrent and informative themes, presented in an accessible guide for care givers and medical staff. They include topics which remain relevant until today, such as language, taboo and shame, emotional relief and support, food in care facilities, and challenges for professional caretakers with a migration background.

The booklet formulates one problem definition per chapter and then shows the reader how different actors experience the subject, using and framing citations from the interviews. Each chapter concludes with recommendations.

The guide was distributed widely with 3 reprints and is now freely available on our website.

