

## **Enlisting your Patients as Partners in Teaching**

**Patient consent** to working with students is usually not a problem for preceptor, student, or patient.

- Most patients appreciate the extra time and attention a student is able to give them.
- Students will bring a notice you may wish to post in the reception room. It states that you will be working with a medical student the coming months.
- Receptionists can also help notify patients when they schedule appointments that a student will be working with you.
- Nurses and/or Medical Assistants can inform patients and obtain their consent when they room the patient.
- It's important to introduce the student as "medical student", "student doctor" or "doctor-in-training"; calling the student "doctor" can lead to unclear expectations and confusion.
- Emphasize that the student is a regular part of the practice for a specified time period but that the patient's own doctor will always be in charge of the patient's care.

### ***Special Considerations***

We know from the students' evaluations that there are times when gender and race issues in patient encounters, with clinic staff, or in the community can be difficult for them. The time taken to introduce your student to patients, staff and community may often set a tone of support and acceptance that will facilitate the interactions the student has throughout his/her stay. Please let students know you are receptive to discussing any problems they encounter.

The University of Washington, the School of Medicine and the Department of Family Medicine are committed to providing a quality experience for all students regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam era veteran in accordance with University policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

*Please see Appendix VI for further information.*