



A message from your physician:

“Your health and satisfaction are important to me, and I want to provide the best possible care. I encourage you to become an active participant in your care and insist that your questions are fully answered. I invite you to...”

- **Speak up- be open and honest.**

Please tell me all your symptoms and concerns; I do not want you to feel embarrassed or shy about anything. It could be important to both of us.

State what you fear your problem might be. Unless I know what is bothering you, I may not be able to help you to the best of my ability.

If this is a follow-up visit, be sure to tell me if, and why, you are having difficulty following the treatment plan. We may need to design a new approach to your care together.

- **Ask questions and express concerns.**

Be informed. Your complete understanding is important to me. If I do not answer all your questions, ask me again.

- **Confirm your diagnosis and/or main problem.**

Make sure you understand and are comfortable with my interpretation of your symptoms and concerns.

- **Understand the recommended treatment and what you can expect from it.**

Know what you are being asked to do, and let me know if you do not think you will be able to do it. Know when you can expect to be better and when you need to see me again. It is very important that you understand any medication side effects and/or conflicts with other medications or illnesses.

Questions need answers.

“Ask all questions that you have. When we finish our appointment I want you to be able, at a minimum, to answer these questions. If you cannot, then I want you to ask me.”

- What do you think my main problem is?
- How long will I be sick and how soon should I see improvement?
- Under what conditions should I call you or come back?
- If tests are ordered, when will they be ready, and how will you notify me?
- If medicine is prescribed, what are the side effects I need to be aware of?