

## Discussing your diagnosis and treatment

Students in the later stages of their training will often be asked by the GP tutor to make a diagnosis and discuss treatment. We may ask the student to discuss his or her plans directly with you. This allows them to practice making their medical decisions, to communicate clearly and to talk about the treatment required.

Please be assured that advice and treatment will only be given by the GP or other qualified practitioner. We will listen to the student's recommendations, but the final decisions are between you and the practitioner. Students are not allowed to sign prescriptions or offer any form of treatment or therapy.

## Giving Feedback

We often ask patients to give their comments to the students on their performance. This lets students see how well they have communicate with you and dealt with your problem. Some patients have considerably knowledge f their condition and can offer specialist feedback.

Students speak very highly of their experiences at the surgery.

## Thank you

We'd like to thank warmly all those patients who have taken part in medical student training.

## How to get involved

Your doctor may contact you directly to ask if you would be prepared to help.

You can also volunteer by letting your doctor or the practice receptionists know what you are willing to help.

The GP will contact you when a suitable opportunity arises. They will explain what the teaching involves and when you are needed. You can withdraw your consent at any times and for any reason.

If you have any questions or concerns now, or at any time during the teaching. Please let us know straight away.

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**CUMBERLAND HOUSE**

**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE**

# Helping Medical Students Learn Medicine at the Surgery

# Information for Patients, Relatives & Carers

## Medical Students at the Surgery

Whilst you are at the surgery you may be asked whether you would be willing to be seen by medical students. We would be grateful if you could help us with this. By doing so you are contributing to the training of the next generation of doctors.

## Code of practice for medical students

A medical student should **always**

- ⇒ Tell you his/her name.
- ⇒ Inform you that she/he is a medical student.
- ⇒ Ask you permission before taking medical details or making a physical examination.
- ⇒ Keep information you have been given in complete confidence between you and the doctor.
- ⇒ Ask your permission to do common procedures, such as taking blood samples.

## Talking to you about your medical details: Your Medical History

The most important thing a doctor does to find out what is wrong with a patient is to listen to the patient describing their illness and exploring their story in greater depth. It is therefore one of the most important things for medical students to master.

Meeting patients at home or in the surgery is the best way to do this. The student needs firstly to listen to your account of events and then through careful questioning explore what each of your symptoms means in more detail.

We expect our students:

- ⇒ To listen to your story without interrupting.
- ⇒ To ask questions sensitively and clearly without using technical medical language.
- ⇒ To respond sensitively to your feelings.

**We fully understand that there may be times when you would prefer not to meet students.**

**Please let us know straight away.**

**It will not affect your treatment in any way.**

## Being examined by a medical student

Medical students need to learn how to carry out medical examinations so that they become skilled at recognising physical abnormalities that may indicate illness.

They need to know:

- ⇒ What the normal is like and how it changes with age.
- ⇒ To identify abnormalities which may indicate underlying medical problems.
- ⇒ To learn techniques for examining to understand the underlying problem in more detail.

Students particularly need to learn to examine: -

- ⇒ The nervous system.
- ⇒ The heart and blood vessels.
- ⇒ The lungs and breathing.
- ⇒ The abdomen (tummy) and digestion.

The GP tutor will explain exactly what is involved when they discuss the teaching session with you. If for any reason you are unhappy about taking part, just let us know.