

Working Together - Doctors and Patients

Produced by B.C. Persons with AIDS Society and Vancouver Native Health Society

Being HIV+ is tough.

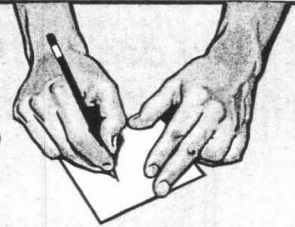
It can be much easier when you have a mutually honest and open working partnership with your doctor.

There are many things you and your doctor can do to make the partnership work. Each of you has rights and responsibilities.



Think about your questions in advance and try to write them down.

Get all the information you can before you go to your appointments; keep up to date with what's going on.



Show up to your appointments!



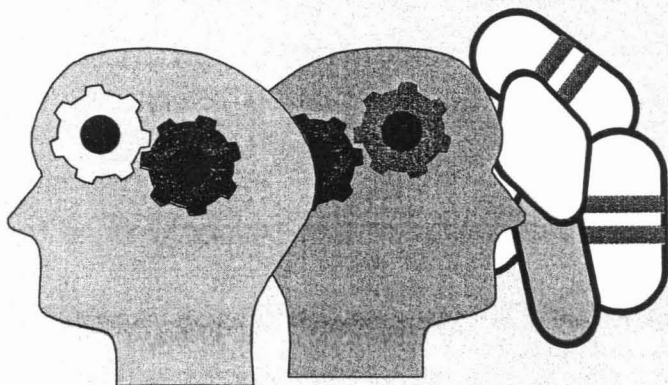
You may want to bring along a friend.

Take responsibility for your decisions no matter what they are!

Ask questions if you don't understand something.

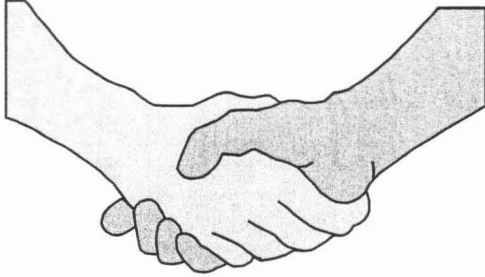


It's OK to change your mind!



Find a doctor you feel comfortable with and with whom you can be yourself.

Treat your doctor with honesty and respect and expect the same. If you don't get that respect, change doctors.



Get copies of your blood work and learn what it means.



You have the choice to refuse any treatment or test.



If the partnership can't be worked out, find another doctor.



If you have a problem with medical care you can't fix, contact:

- BCPWA Individual Advocacy Program
- B.C. College of Physicians and Surgeons
- B.C. Human Rights Commission
- B.C. Ombudsperson

Informed Consent

Informed Consent is when you have made a decision based on all the information (good, bad and unknown), about any treatment, test or research.

It's your right!