

General
Medical
Council



Easy
Read

Talking to your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate

Making decisions about your care



Easy Read



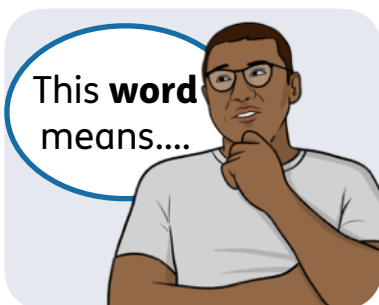
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



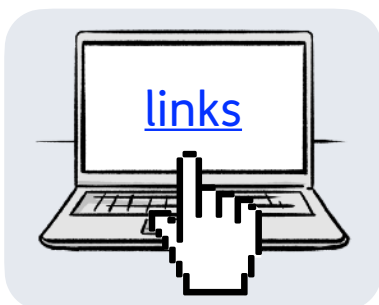
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet

General Medical Council

This guide is from the General Medical Council (GMC).



We support doctors, **physician associates** and **anaesthesia associates** to give good, safe care to patients.



Physician associates are part of the team that cares for patients.

They are **supervised** by doctors - that means that doctors support them to do their job well.



Anaesthesia associates are part of the team that stops you from feeling pain when you have an operation.

They are supervised by **anaesthetists**. **Anaesthetists** are doctors in charge of stopping you feel pain when you have an operation.



We also try to make healthcare and training better.



Your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate should support you when you are making choices about your care.



This booklet will explain how they should talk to you about the care you can get.

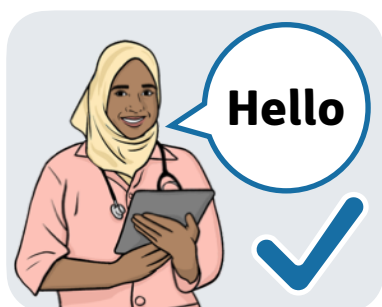
Talking to your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate



Talking to your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate can be scary.

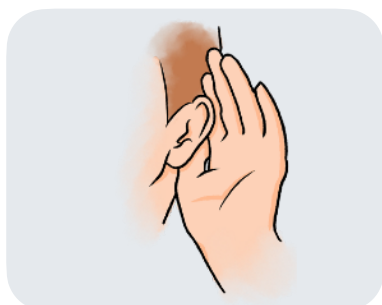


But they should give you support.



When speaking to you, they should:

- Use language that you can understand.



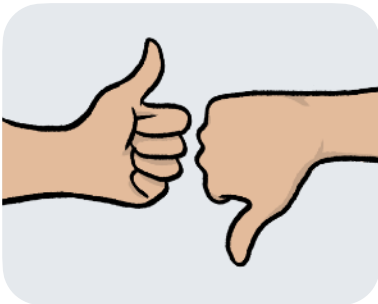
- Listen to you.

Your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate should also:



- Explain all the choices you can make about your treatment and how each treatment option works.

This should include the option to have no treatment.



- Talk to you about what is good and bad about each option.



- Help you remember your options.



- Get to know you more so they can talk to you about how each option might change your life.



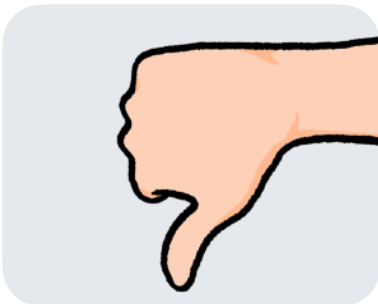
- Give you the chance to ask questions. They should answer your questions truthfully.

Questions you could ask

Here are some questions you could ask your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate to help you choose the right care for you:



- What is good about this option?



- What is bad about this option?



- What are the other options I could choose from?



- What will happen if I choose to do nothing?



You could write down some questions before meeting your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate so that you remember them.

Choosing your care

When you are making choices about your care, your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate should:



- Never make you rush.



- Support you when you are thinking about your options.



- Give you time to talk to friends or family about the options.

If you find it hard to understand spoken English



If you find it hard to understand spoken English, your doctor, physician associate or anaesthesia associate should use a **translation** service.

Translation means changing someone's words from one language into another language.

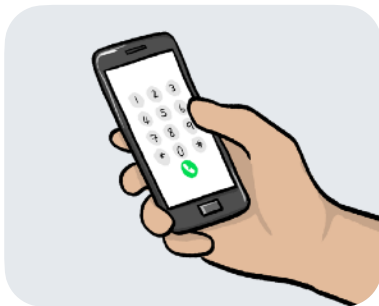


This helps people who speak different languages understand each other.

Find out more

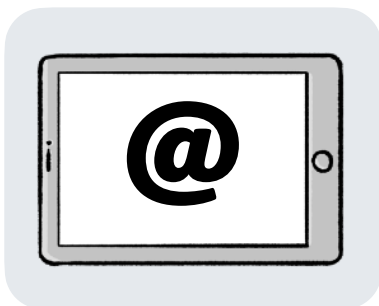


You can look at our website here:
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