

Effective communication between a practitioner and patient can contribute to better health outcomes for the patient. Removing communication obstacles and barriers may:

- build trust between patient and doctor
- encourage the patient disclose information
- enhances patient satisfaction
- involve the patient more fully in health decision making
- help the patient make better health decisions
- lead to more realistic patient expectations
- produce a more effective practice
- reduce the risk of errors and mishaps.

Check out the following sites for articles and tips on improving patient-practitioner communication:

<http://www.aafp.org/fpm/990500fm/23.html>

<http://www.aafp.org/fpm/2006/0900/p73.html>