Use **Gestures & Pointing** when Communicating with Patients:

- As visual cue to improve understanding of your message.
- To establish shared meaning for gestures that patients can use to communicate with you.

**Caution:**

Please be aware of cultural sensitivities. Some gestures are offensive in other cultures. Be sure to verify the cultural background of your patient before using any gesture.

**Examples:**

- Using the ‘Okay’ gesture low on the body and/or turn upside down is offensive in most Latin American countries, to the Deaf, and Turkey.

- The “thumbs up” gesture can be vulgar and offensive in the Middle East, West Africa, South America, Greece, and Sardinia.

(List not comprehensive)