

# 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)*