



Tips for Interacting with Patients with Autism

Tips for Communication

- Be **Flexible** and **Patient**
- Presume **competence**.
- Utilize **caregiver knowledge**
- Patients with ASD **communicate** with a wide range of different methods, **ask** about preferences
- **Social stories and visual schedules** may help a patient understand expectations
- **Extra time explaining** what will happen may help with having a successful visit
- Offer to **model** medical procedure on a trusted caregiver to demonstrate what is needed
- Give two **choices** where possible- improves patient's sense of control

Tips for Accommodating Sensory Needs

- Be aware of **sensory needs**- patients with autism may be sensory avoidant or seeking
 - **Sight**- try dimming lights or using a light-up toy
 - **Touch**- try avoiding touch, be aware of crinkly paper, gloves
 - **Sound**- try speaking more quietly or utilizing headphones
 - **Taste**- try different options for toothpaste/medicine
 - **Smell**- try avoiding perfume/cologne
 - **Overstimulation**- try limiting number of people in environment