**Language Barriers**

Guidelines to keep in mind when working with a patient with language barriers:

* RLAFC does allow for family members and friends to interpret for patients if the patient chooses. Advise the patient that we do have interpreters available for future visits or if they would rather use our interpreter instead.
* Remember who the patient is - keep the focus on the patient, not the interpreter.
* Speak in short sentences or phrases, to make translating easier for the interpreter. Make sure that the patient understands what he or she has been told by asking him or her to repeat the message in their own words.
* Be sensitive to cultural differences when using nonverbal communication. For example, a touch has many cultural meanings. Clinicians must be aware that personal space has different boundaries in different cultures.