## Are You KnowledgeABLE?

## When Interacting with Individuals with Disabilities:

- Establish open communication about abilities and limitations.
- Consult with others when you need additional information on a specific condition.
- Apply the same principles, considerations and respect with everyone.
- Offer information in alternate formats.
- Speak directly to the individual with a disability, not his or her caregiver, companion, or interpreter.
  - Respect a patient's assistive device (cane, wheelchair, etc.). Unless given permission, do not move or play with it.
- Be considerate of the extra time it may require when seeing a patient with a disability.
- Make sure your office is accessible from the parking lot to the sign-in desks to your exam tables.
  - ALWAYS use person-first terminology
  - Never assume disabilities may be hidden.
  - Individuals with disabilities need physical activity, too!

Person-First Terminology

"handicapped" and
"wheelchair bound" are outdated
and even offensive. Be sure to always put
the person first. For example, say
"an individual with a spinal cord injury"
or "an individual who uses a wheelchair"
versus "wheelchair bound" or "paraplegic."
The same applies for all disabilities.
Other examples: an individual
with a visual impairment,
an individual with
limb loss.