



Family Centered Experience Statement of Understanding

Thank you for agreeing to take part in a series of interviews with first and second-year medical students who attend Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (Geisinger Commonwealth). They are participating in the Family Centered Experience Program that is aimed to value and understand the personal and family experiences that come from living with chronic illness. Students will meet with you five to six times throughout their first two years at Geisinger Commonwealth. As we navigate through Covid-19, your safety and well-being remain our top priorities. Meetings with students will be conducted by following state and federal guidelines and use of phone calls and video chats. Please allow for approximately one to two hours for each meeting.

The students are directed to explore with you many health and illness topics. They will be directed to ask about your overall health status and that of your family. Students are encouraged to review with you the health and chronic illness profile of yourself and any other family members. Help them to understand how your life has changed resulting from an illness. What have been your experiences with doctors and other health professionals? You can expect our students to ask about your personal medical history and your family medical history. You may find some of the questions to be personal; you may choose not to answer any of their questions at any time.

Your conversations with the students are confidential and you will be treated with respect for your privacy. Students will be discussing what they have learned about your health and illness experiences with other medical students and a professor/physician (in a small group setting as a part of a class), but they will never identify you by name in any of these discussions. If there is any information you do not want them to discuss with their classmates, tell them and they will respect your wishes.

We want you to keep in mind that our students are at the very beginning of their medical training. This is a required learning activity to understand and value patient perspectives on health, illness and our health care delivery system. They are not experienced medical providers. All students are counseled about their role and are not to give you any medical advice. If you have questions about your health and/or healthcare, please direct your questions to your personal physician. If at any time you do not want to continue in the Family Centered Experience program, you may withdraw by contacting Sharon Myers at **570-687-9707** or smyers02@som.geisinger.edu. Your participation is **entirely voluntary**. There is no penalty for you or the students should you withdraw. However, we certainly hope that you find this experience to be valuable and that you will be willing and able to participate in all the interviews.

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By signing below, I acknowledge that I understand the above statement and I agree to participate as an FCE patient volunteer. In addition, I also give permission to the students to relay important medical information to my doctor that we may have shared during our visit.

Print Name

Signature

Date

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