

Caring for Doctor Patients

The Ts and Ss Model

Strategies for doctor-patient consultations



Uncertain how to approach treating medical professionals?

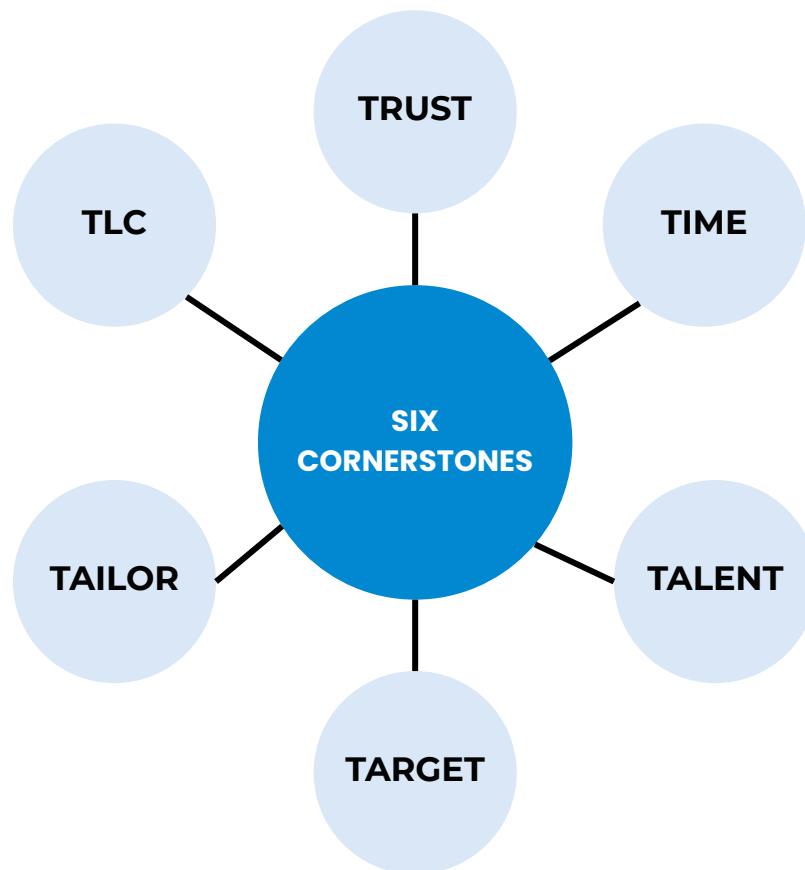
These practical principles are designed to support GPs and other health professionals in establishing successful, safe, and sustainable therapeutic relationships with doctors and medical students.



Promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of WA doctors and medical students

The 6 Ts

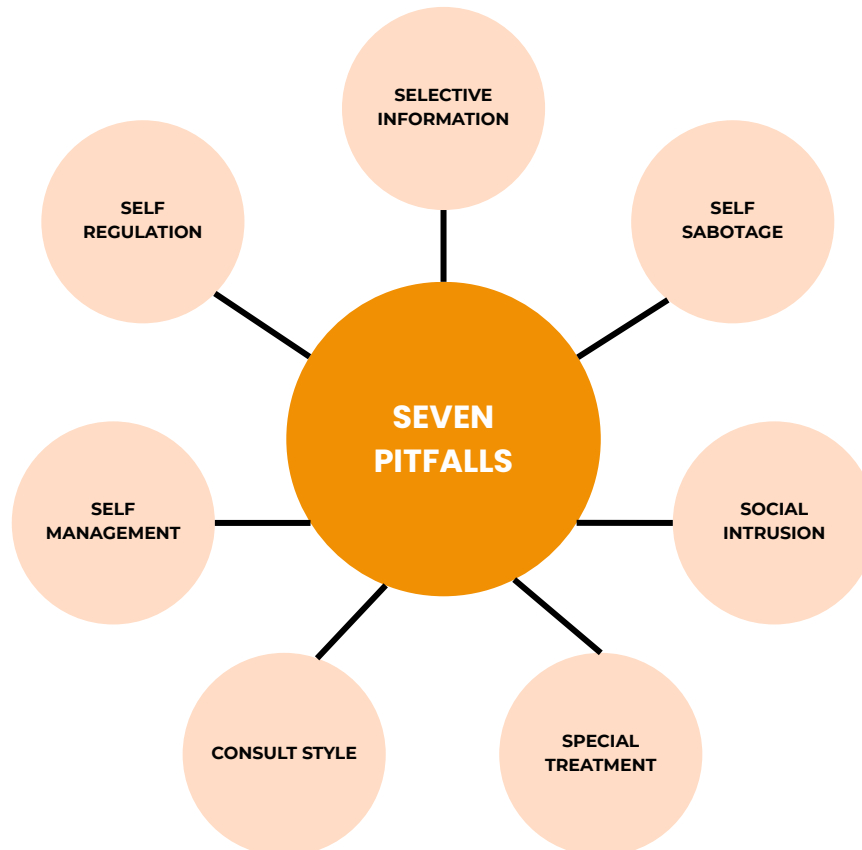
Cornerstones of effective Doctor-patient relationships



- **Trust:** Emphasise confidentiality and privacy. Explain how this will be implemented at your practice
- **Time:** Consider planning extended time for initial, complex or sensitive consults
- **Talent:** Develop and maintain skills in seeing medical colleagues, while maintaining your usual standards of clinical care
- **Target:** structure consults with clear outcomes, follow-up and safety netting as you would with any patient
- **Tailor:** Establish clear boundaries and responsibilities for investigations, prescribing and referrals through shared decision making
- **TLC (Tender Loving Care):** Provide a calm, supportive and affirming experience for your doctor patients, and allow vulnerability

The 7 Ss

Common pitfalls in doctor-patient consults



DOCTOR

- **Style of Consult:** Altering your usual structure, documentation or follow-up
- **Special Treatment** – Deviating from standard clinical pathways, avoiding hard conversations, examinations, boundaries due to collegiate status
- **Social Intrusion** – “Talking shop” over-riding consult priorities. Treating close colleagues, professional boundary challenges inhibiting consult effectiveness
- **Self-Regulation** – Personal emotional reactions impacting patient care or the practitioner’s wellbeing

DOCTOR- PATIENT

- **Selective Information:** Intentionally minimising/omitting information
- **Self-Sabotage:** Avoiding appropriate assessment, referral, treatment or follow-up
- **Self-Management:** Discouraging self-treatment and self prescription.

Any doctor can treat a doctor patient. By applying patient centred care with acknowledgement and enacting these principles, caring for colleagues is less confronting, more intuitive, and professionally rewarding.



FURTHER QUESTIONS?

For non- urgent queries or advice, contact our
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URGENT ISSUES:

Call the **DHASWA 24/7 Advice Line** on **08 9321 3098**
Speak with our experienced doctors within 4 hours



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