



Tune in to SDPB Television

"Silent Killer" – Oct. 5, 2006

Every year at least 98,000 Americans are killed – and countless more are injured – as a result of medical errors. This program begins by profiling the efforts of Sorrel King, whose 18-month-old daughter died at one of the most respected hospitals in the world, Johns Hopkins. King has gone from grieving victim to engaged activist, partnering with Johns Hopkins to make safety a top priority at the institution.

"First Do No Harm" – Oct. 12, 2006

This program focuses on the impact of medical errors in two hospitals and follows the efforts of physicians who are challenging their colleagues to live up to their oath to "First Do No Harm." Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey is engaged in an effort to completely transform the way the institution delivers care. The goal is to ensure that the people trusted to provide safe and effective medical treatment do not harm patients.

"The Stealth Epidemic" – Oct. 19, 2006

Chronic diseases like diabetes and congestive heart failure affect nearly 100 million Americans, and treatment of these illnesses consumes nearly 70% of all health care resources. Yet doctors are often unable to prevent needless suffering or even death, and these failures are threatening the viability of our entire health care system. This program looks at groundbreaking efforts in two very different communities -- Los Angeles and Whatcom County in the state of Washington -- that are fundamentally transforming the physician-patient relationship, and offers a glimmer of hope for patients across the country who are struggling with their chronic conditions.

"Hand in Hand" – Oct. 26, 2006

As medicine continues to become more and more technologically sophisticated and the systems that deliver medical care become more complex, the relationship between providers and patients and their families is more important than ever. This final program tells the story of patients and families who have formed a unique bond in a teaching hospital in the small town of Augusta, Georgia to transform the institution into a nationally recognized facility where partnership is a guiding vision to the care it delivers.

Patients Name	Medication	Dose	Frequency
Prescriptions			
Over-the-counter			
Vitamins			
Herbs, dietary supplements, homeopathic remedies			

Power to the
PATIENTS

It's Your Health... You Call the Shots

Remaking
**AMERICAN
MEDICINE™**

HEALTH CARE FOR THE 21st CENTURY

Coming to PBS in October 2006

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Family Prescription & Medication Lists

It's Your Health... You Call the Shots

Power to the
PATIENTS

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It's Your Health... You Call the Shots



Photos courtesy of Crosskeys Media 2005©

Power to the Patients is all about being an active member of your own health care team and empowering you to take control of your own health care decisions. Research shows that patients who are more involved with their care tend to get better results.



Photo courtesy of Crosskeys Media 2005©

At the Appointment

Give your doctor as much information as you can about your health— even if it makes you uncomfortable. Do not assume they know everything about you.

Bring an up-to-date health history and medical information such as a list of the medications you are currently taking and the details about any health problems you are experiencing.

You have a right to ask questions and get explanations you can understand. Bring a list of questions with you. If you have questions after the appointment, call.

Ask your doctor to draw pictures if that might help. Ask for written instructions, brochures, or other resource materials that can help you.

Take notes or ask if you can bring a tape recorder to help you remember things.

Ask a family member or friend to come with you and be your advocate. They can help you understand and remember the information your doctor gives you.

Let your doctor know if you need more time or ask if you can call later.

Medical Tests

Find out why a test or treatment is needed and how it can help you.

Don't be afraid to ask questions about how the test is done, what kind of information will it provide, how accurate it is and what the next step is.

Get the results of any test. Don't assume no news is good news. Call your doctor and ask for your results and what they mean for your care.

If you and your doctor think the test results may not be right, have it done again.

Medications

Keep a list of all the medicines you take, including non-prescription medicines, dietary supplements and herbs. Make sure your doctor and pharmacist have copies.

Tell your doctor and your pharmacist about any allergies or adverse reactions you have.

If your doctor gives you a prescription, make sure that you can read it and that you understand what it is for and how to take it. Ask question about drug interactions and possible side effects.

Read the label when you get your medicine, including all warnings. If you have any questions about the directions, ask.

Make sure your medicine is what the doctor ordered. Ask the pharmacist about your medicine if it looks different than you expected.

If your symptoms get worse, or if you have problems with your medicine, call your doctor.



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Prescriptions			
Over-the-counter			
Vitamins			
Herbs, dietary supplements, homeopathic remedies			