

Five Things Doctors Should Know

All people are the same – Every life is of infinite value. Every person deserves respect, kindness, and empowerment. A medical crisis only intensifies these basic human needs.

All people are different – Nothing works for everyone, and some things which are standard practice in the medical world can prove deadly to people with certain disabilities. It is important to listen to what people know about themselves.

Disability does not equal suffering – The perception that life with a disability is a constant battle with pain and disappointment is just that: *a perception*. Life is hard for everyone, and not necessarily harder with a disability.

Every life is worth fighting for – Every person brings a unique gift into the world. The fact that this gift may be hidden, unusual, or expensive to support does not lessen its value. It has been said that when we save a life, we actually save a whole world.

Your life will be touched by disability – This is not a situation of “us” and “them.” At some point in your life, through birth, accident, or illness, you or someone you love will live with disability. The more you understand that disability is natural, the easier the adjustment will be.