Myth: "We're too busy to be involved with students. Working with students is more work."

Truth: Actually, students can help reduce workloads by assisting with the daily tasks, paperwork, and providing extra assistance needed for patient care. As the student's skills improve, staff observes and supervises thereby decreasing overall work.

Myth: "We should get extra pay to teach students; it is not part of my job."

Truth: Many facilities actively support employee mentoring. We encourage you to check this out with your human resources department. Also, take time to tell your employees about the benefits of student rotations. Let them know how important their expertise and experience are to students and the future of the profession.

Myth: "We're concerned that our patients will be unhappy about having students in the exam room, and we fear losing business."

Truth: When patients are informed that your facility is a 'clinical teaching site', they are typically impressed and are eager to provide a learning opportunity for the student. This is common practice in teaching hospitals, clinics, physician offices, etc. The majority of your patients are aware of the value of this experience in the training of healthcare professionals.

Myth: "We don't allow any discussion or questions during the exam because it may upset the patient."

Truth: Most patients are very interested in their examination. Simply informing the patient that you will be providing student instruction during the examination will alleviate patient concerns. In fact, most patients are often interested in the information provided to the student because it helps them to better understand the procedure. This situation becomes a learning experience for everyone.

Myth: "I'm afraid the student will ask questions that I can't answer since I didn't attend a formal educational school."

Truth: When teaching, both students and staff learn. Students often motivate staff and provide incentive for them to sharpen their skills, review information previously learned, and keep up with the new techniques and advancements in the field. For healthcare providers, continuing education is essential. Providing clinical instruction is one way to foster the value of continued professional development.

Myth: "My hospital/facility is too small to be a clinical site."

Truth: Many programs use smaller sites as long as the program can maintain good outcomes for its graduates.