

Medical Home



The primary care doctor has long been the bedrock of American medicine. Someone who was knowledgeable and caring. A doctor who would listen and was generous with his time with each patient. Let's face it, times have changed, and these days a visit to the doctor can feel as personal as a trip through a car wash. But Dr. Jerry Waters of Oroville Family Practice endeavors to keep the better traditions alive.

"We get to know the patient and their family and give them a continuity of care that might otherwise be lacking. Our patients know that we care," says Waters, who originally wanted to be an airline pilot (he received his pilot's license when he was 15!), but switched to medicine and went to Loma Linda Medical School.

That continuity of care is important; if a patient doesn't have a good relationship with his or her health-care provider, important information can slip through the cracks and treatment can be affected. "I know a patient's medical history, what they do for a living, whether they are having problems in their personal life. All of these things are important when treating a patient," Waters says.

Now, Waters has been joined by Physicians Assistant (PA-C) Jason Ruby. Like Waters, Ruby revels in building ongoing relationships with patients. "I have time to build rapport with people," he said of the encouraging atmosphere cultivated by Waters at Oroville Family Practice. "It sounds like a cliché, but I got into medicine to help people."

It's no secret that there is a severe shortage of primary care physicians in this country. That's

where physician assistants and nurse practitioners come in; they are sometimes referred to as mid-levels because their training is between that of a doctor and a nurse. To address this shortage, Stanford University has a program that is specifically tailored to train family-practice mid-levels.

"Our patients know that we care."

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Chico State and working for five years as an EMT, Ruby attended and completed the physician-assistant program at Stanford University. At the same time, he earned a master's degree in medical science from St. Francis College.

"My job is to listen to my patients and help them live a long, happy life," Ruby says with a smile. And he adds, "I love my job, I love my patients, and I love working here. This is what I was meant to do."



Oroville Hospital