

Patients' Bill of Rights

Patients' Rights

1. A patient has the right to respectful care given by competent personnel.
2. A patient has the right, upon request, to be given the name of his attending practitioner, the names of all other practitioners directly participating in his care, and the names and functions of other health care personnel having direct contact with the patient.
3. A patient has the right to every consideration of his privacy concerning his own medical care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination and treatment are considered confidential and should be conducted discreetly.
4. A patient has the right to have records pertaining to his medical care treated as confidential except as otherwise provided by law or third party contractual arrangements.
5. A patient has the right to know what Center rules and regulations apply to his conduct as a patient.
6. A patient has the right to expect emergency procedures to be implemented without unnecessary delay.
7. A patient has the right to good quality care and high professional standards that are continually maintained and reviewed.
8. A patient has the right to full information, in lay terms, concerning diagnosis, treatment and prognosis, including information about alternative treatments and possible complications. When it is not medically advisable to give the information to the patient, the information shall be given on his behalf to the patient's next of kin or other appropriate person.
9. Except for emergencies, the physician shall obtain the necessary informed consent prior to the start of any procedure or treatment, or both.
10. A patient, or in the event the patient is unable to give informed consent, a legally responsible party, has the right to be advised when a physician is considering the patient as part of a medical care research program or donor program, and the patient or legally responsible party must give informed consent prior to actual participation in such program. A patient or legally responsible party may, at any time, refuse to continue in any such program to which he has previously given informed consent.
11. A patient has the right to refuse drugs, treatment, or procedures offered by the Center, to the extent permitted by law, and a physician shall inform the patient of the medical consequences of the patient's refusal of drugs, treatment or procedures.
12. A patient has the right to medical and nursing services without discrimination based upon race, color, religion, gender, sexual preference, national origin, or source of payment.
13. A patient who does not speak English shall have access, where possible, to an interpreter.
14. The Center shall provide the patient, or patient designee, upon request, access to the information contained in his medical records, unless the attending physician for medical reasons specifically restricts access.
15. A patient has the right to expect good management techniques to be implemented within the Center considering the effective use of time of the patient and to avoid the personal discomfort of the patient.
16. When medically advisable, a patient may be transferred to another facility. He or his next of kin or other legally responsible representative will be provided with complete information and an explanation concerning the needs for and alternatives to such transfer. The institution to which the patient is to be transferred must first have accepted the patient for transfer.
17. A patient has the right to examine and receive a detailed explanation of his bill.
18. A patient has the right to expect that the Center will provide information for continuing health care requirements following discharge and the means for meeting them.
19. A patient has the right to be informed of his rights at the time of admission.

Patients' Responsibilities

Patients are expected to:

1. Provide accurate and complete information about their present complaints, past medical illnesses, hospitalizations, surgeries, medications, and other matters relating to their health.
2. Tell their health care providers whether they understand the treatment, plan of care, and what is expected of the patient.
3. Help the physicians and other allied health personnel in their efforts to care for patients by following their instructions and medical orders.
4. Observe the no smoking policy of the Center.

It is always best to make every effort to address patient/visitor complaints internally through discussion, investigation and potential action by/among Center personnel and the patient/visitor. Therefore, in accord with Administrative policy 341, any and all patient/visitor complaints should initially be brought to the attention of Center personnel such as the Medical Director, Director of Nursing or Office Manager.

If necessary, patients wishing to register a complaint may do so by calling the Pennsylvania Department of Health Hotline for complaints at 1-800-254-5164, by writing to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Acute and Ambulatory Care, PO Box 90, Health and Wellness Building, Harrisburg, PA 17180 or by emailing the Office of Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman at www.medicare.gov/Ombudsman/resources.asp.