

Patient Bill of Rights

A patient has the right to...

- considerate and respectful care.
- know the identity of physicians, nurses, and others involved in her care, as well as when those involved are students, residents, or other trainees.
- privacy. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment should be conducted to protect each patient's privacy.
- obtain from physicians and other direct caregivers relevant, current, and understandable information about her diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.
- Except in emergencies when the patient lacks the ability to make decisions and the need for treatment is urgent, the patient is entitled to discuss and request information related to the specific procedures and/or treatments available, the risks involved, the possible length of recovery, and the medically reasonable alternatives to existing treatments along with their accompanying risks and benefits.
- know the immediate and long-term financial significance of treatment choices insofar as they are known.
- make decisions about the plan of care before and during the course of treatment and to refuse a recommended treatment or plan of care if it is permitted by law. The patient also has the right to be informed of the medical consequences of this action. In case of such refusal, the patient is still entitled to appropriate care and services that the physician provides or to be transferred to another physician.
- have an advance directive (such as a living will, health care proxy, or durable power of attorney for health care) concerning treatment or designating a surrogate decision-maker and to expect that the physician will honor that directive as permitted by law.
- Health care institutions must advise the patient of her rights under state law to make informed medical choices, must ask if the patient has an advance directive, and must include that information in patient records. The patient has the right to know about any hospital policy that may keep it from carrying out a legally valid advance directive.
- expect that all communications and records pertaining to his/her care will be treated confidentially by the physician and hospital, except in cases such as suspected abuse and public health hazards when reporting is permitted or required by law. The patient has the right to expect that the physician and hospital will emphasize confidentiality of this information when it releases it to any other parties entitled to review information in these records.
- review her medical records and to have the information explained or interpreted as necessary, except when restricted by law.