

Patient's Bill of Rights

1. The patient has the right to considerate and respectful care.
2. The patient has the right to obtain complete current information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in terms they can be reasonably expected to understand. When it is not medically advisable to give such information to the patient, the information should be made available to an appropriate person on their behalf. A patient has the right to know by name the physician responsible for coordinating their care.
3. The patient has the right to receive from their physician any information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure and/or treatment. Except in emergencies, such information for informed consent should include, but not necessarily limited to, the specific procedure and/or treatment, the medically significant risks involved, and the probable duration of incapacitation. Where medically significant alternatives for care or treatment exist, or when the name of the patient has the right to such information. The patient also has the right to know the name of the person responsible for the procedure and/or treatment.
4. The patient has the right to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law, and to be informed of the medical consequences of this action.
5. The patient has the right to expect all communications and records pertaining to their care should be treated as confidential.
6. The patient has the right to every consideration of privacy concerning her own medical care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment are confidential and should be conducted discretely. Those not directly involved in treatment must have the permission of the patient to be present.
7. The patient has the right to expect that within its capacity, an office must make reasonable response to the request of services. Medical facilities must provide evaluation, service, and/or referral as indicated by the urgency of the case. When medically permissible, the patient may be transferred to another facility only after receiving complete information and exploration concerning the needs for an alternative to a transfer.
8. The patient has the right to obtain information as to the existence of any professional relationships among individuals, by name, who is treating them.
9. The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care, as well as the right to know in advance what appointment times and physicians are available.