

Patient Bill of Rights

(This applies to children and adults)

1. The patient has the right to considerate, safe and respectful care, free from abuse (mental, physical, sexual or verbal) neglect and exploitation. The patient also has the right to freedom from seclusion and restraints unless clinically necessary.
2. The patient has the right to expect his or her condition will be assessed as appropriate, and a plan of care developed and implemented to address his or her specific health care priorities. This plan of care will include, but not be limited to, the management of pain and discomfort, the provision of safety, the provision of nutrition, and patient education for self-care, all where appropriate. The patient has the right to and is encouraged to obtain information from physicians and other caregivers concerning diagnosis, treatment and prognosis. Patients have the right to know the identity of physicians, nurses and others involved in their care as well as when those involved are students, residents or other trainees. The patient also has the right to know the immediate and long-term financial implications of treatment choices, insofar as they are known.
3. The patient has the right to make decisions about the plan of care prior to and during the course of treatment and to refuse a recommended treatment or plan of care to the extent permitted by law and hospital policy and to be informed of the medical consequences of this action.
4. The patient has the right to have an advance directive concerning treatment or to designate a surrogate decision maker with the expectation that the hospital will honor the intent of that directive to the extent permitted by law and hospital policy.
5. The patient has the right to every consideration of privacy in an environment that preserves dignity and contributes to a positive self-image.
6. The patient has the right to expect that all communications and records pertaining to his or her care will be treated as confidential by the hospital, except in cases such as suspected abuse and public health hazards when reporting is permitted or required by law. The patient may decide to have the hospital notify a family member and his or her own physician. This is initiated by asking the patient's caregiver.
7. The patient has the right to review the records pertaining to his or her medical care and to have the information explained or interpreted as necessary, except when restricted by law.
8. The patient has the right to expect that, within its capacity and policies, a hospital will make reasonable response to the request of a patient for appropriate and medically indicated care and services. The hospital must provide evaluation, service and/or referral as indicated by the urgency of the case. When medically appropriate and legally permissible, or when a patient has so requested, a patient may be transferred to another facility. The patient must also have the benefit of complete information and explanation concerning the need for, risks, benefits and alternatives to such a transfer.
9. The patient has the right to ask and be informed of the existence of business relationships among the hospital, educational institutions, other health care providers or payors that may influence the patient's treatment and care.
10. The patient has the right to consent to or decline to participate in proposed research studies or human experimentation affecting care and treatment or requiring direct patient involvement, and to have those studies fully explained prior to consent.
11. The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care when appropriate and to be informed by physicians and other caregivers of available and realistic patient care options when hospital care is no longer appropriate.
12. The patient has the right to be informed of hospital policies and practices that relate to patient care, treatment and responsibilities.
13. The patient and their family or appointed caregiver has the right to effective communication. Written and verbal information as appropriate to age, understanding and to the language of the patient. The hospital provides free of charge those services required by patients with impairments in vision, speech, hearing, language and cognition. The following is a list of such auxiliary aids used by the hospital, sign language, oral interpreters, written materials, closed caption decoders, Language Line, and TTY's. If you or your family needs such services please ask your nurse for assistance or contact a patient representative at (843) 777-2273.

