

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

A Model Made By The American Civil Liberties Union

Preamble: As you enter this health care facility, it is our duty to remind you that your health care is a cooperative effort between you as a patient and the doctors and hospital staff. During your stay a patient rights advocate will be available to you. The duty of the advocate is to assist you in all the decisions you must make and in all situations in which your health and welfare are at stake. The advocate's first responsibility is to help you understand the role of all who will be working with you, and to help you understand what your rights as a patient are. Your advocate can be reached twenty-four hours a day. The following is a list of your rights as a patient. Your advocate's duty is to see to it that you are afforded these rights. You should call our advocate whenever you have any questions or concerns about any of these rights.

1. The patient has a legal right to informed participation in all decisions involving the patient's healthcare program.
2. We recognize the right of all potential patients to know what research and experimental protocols are being used in our facility and what alternatives are available in the community.
3. The patient has a legal right to privacy regarding the source of payment for treatment and care. This right includes access to reasonable medical care without regard to the source of payment for that treatment and care.
4. We recognize the right of a potential patient to complete and accurate information concerning medical care and procedures at our facility.
5. The patient has a legal right to prompt attention in an emergency situation.
6. The patient has a legal right to a clear, concise explanation in layperson's terms of all proposed procedures, including the possibilities of any risk of mortality or serious side

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effects, problems related to recuperation, and probability of success, and will not be subjected to any procedure without the patient's voluntary, competent, and understanding consent. The specifics of such consent shall be set out in a written consent form and signed by the patient before the procedure is done.

7. The patient has a legal right to a clear, complete, and accurate evaluation of the patient's condition and prognosis without treatment before being asked to consent to any test or procedure.
8. The patient has a right to designate another person to make health care and treatment decisions for the patient, and based on the patient's own directions and values, in the event the patient is unable to participate in decision making. The health care facility agrees to recognize the authority of an individual so designated.
9. The patient has a right to know the identity, professional status, and experience of all those providing service. All personnel have been instructed to introduce themselves, state their status, and explain their role in the health care of the patient. Part of this right is the right of the patient to know the identity of the physician responsible for the patient's care.
10. The patient has a legal right not to be discriminated against in the provision of medical and nursing services on the basis of race, religion, national origin, sex, or handicap.
11. Any patient who does not speak English, or who is hearing impaired has a right to have access to an interpreter.
12. The patient has a right to all the information contained in the patient's medical record while in the health care facility, and to examine the record on request.

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13. *The patient has a right to discuss the patient's condition with a consultant specialist, at the patient's request and expense.*
14. *The patient has a legal right not to have any test or procedure, designed for educational purposes rather than the patient's direct personal benefit, performed on the patient.*
15. *The patient has a legal right to refuse any particular drug, test, procedure, or treatment.*
16. *The patient has a legal right to privacy of both person and information with respect to: the staff, other doctors, residents, interns and medical students, researchers, nurses, other health care facility personnel, and other patients.*
17. *We recognize the patient's right of access to people outside the health care facility by means of visitors and the telephone. Parents may stay with their children, and relatives with terminally ill patients, twenty-four hours a day.*
18. *The patient has a legal right to leave the health care facility regardless of the patient's physical condition or financial status, although the patient may be requested to sign a release stating that the patient is leaving against the medical judgment of patient's doctor or the staff.*
19. *The patient has a right not to be transferred to another facility unless the patient had received a complete explanation of the desirability and need for the transfer, the other facility has accepted the patient for transfer, and the patient has agreed to the transfer. If the patient does not agree to the transfer, the patient has the right to a consultant's opinion of the desirability and necessity of the transfer.*

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20. *A patient has a right to be notified of impending discharge at least one day before it is accomplished, to a consultation by an expert on the desirability and necessity of discharge, and to have a person of the patient's choice notified in advance.*
21. *The patient has a right, regardless of the source of payment, to examine and receive an itemized and detailed explanation of the total bill for services rendered in the health care facility.*
22. *We recognize the right of a patient to competent counseling from the facility staff to help in obtaining financial assistance from public or private sources to meet the expense of services received in the health care facility.*
23. *The patient has a right to timely prior notice of the termination of eligibility for reimbursement by any third-party payer for the expense of care.*
24. *At the termination of the patient's stay at the health care facility the patient has a right to a complete copy of the information contained in the patient's medical record.*
25. *We recognize the right of all patients to have twenty-four-hour-a-day access to a patient rights advocate who may act on behalf of the patient to assert or protect the rights set out in this document.*