

PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

1. The patient has the right to considerate and respectful care.
2. The patient has the right to obtain from his physician complete, current information concerning his diagnosis, treatment and prognosis in terms the patient 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 his behalf. A patient has the right to know by name the physician responsible for coordinating his care.
3. The patient has the right to receive from his 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 be 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 patient request information concerning medical alternatives, 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 that all communications and records pertaining to his care should be treated as confidential.
6. The patient has the right to every consideration of his privacy concerning his own medical care program. Case discussion, consultation, examination and treatment are confidential and should be conducted discreetly. Those not directly involved in his care 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 the patient for 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 explanation concerning the needs for and alternatives 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 are treating them.
9. The patient has the right to expect reasonable continuity of care. He has the right to know in advance what appointment times and physicians are available.