

# Patients' Rights and Responsibilities

This is a resource that provides patients with their rights and responsibilities over the course of their health care encounters. This document is for informational purposes only and is not legally binding. It simply provides goals and expectations for patient treatment.

## **It is your right as a patient:**

1. To be treated with respect regardless of race, sex, gender, color, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, or other condition.
2. To have your privacy protected.
3. To be treated in a clean and safe environment.
4. To request a chaperone during your evaluation and to decline treatment if one cannot be provided.
5. To discuss your health concerns and treatment plan with your practitioner.
6. To be advised of care options and when certain treatments are no longer appropriate.
7. To give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure and/or treatment.
8. To expect reasonable continuity of care and appropriate referral to other practitioner(s).
9. To refuse treatment even if it is recommended by your practitioner.
10. To have timely access to your medical records.

## **It is your responsibility as a patient:**

1. To provide, to the best of your knowledge, accurate and complete information about past illness, hospitalizations, medications, and other matters relating to your health.
2. To recognize the impact of your lifestyle, occupation and family history on your personal health.
3. To actively participate in decisions about how to manage your health and/or pain.
4. To request additional information or clarification about your health status or treatment when you do not fully understand the information or instructions.
5. To comply with the treatment plan, including follow-up care.
6. To inform your practitioner if you anticipate problems following your treatment plan.
7. To be respectful of the facility, the practitioners, staff members and other patients.
8. To arrive on time and notify the facility in advance when appointments cannot be kept.
9. To make sure that the facility has a copy of your written advance directive (living will, power of attorney, DNR, POLST, etc.), if you have one.
10. To provide necessary information to insurers and discuss payment options with the facility.

Although these rights and responsibilities may not be legally binding in all aspects, practitioners do have certain obligations, such as the obligation to involve you in the decision-making process.