



HUNTERDON MEDICAL CENTER

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

As a patient in Hunterdon Medical Center, a New Jersey hospital, you have the following rights *under N.J.A.C. 8:43G-4.1 (a) 27.

Medical Care. To receive understanding, considerate, and respectful care in a safe patient care environment.

To receive an understandable explanation from your physician of your complete medical condition, recommended treatment, expected results, risks involved, and reasonable medical alternatives. If your physician believes that some of this information would be detrimental to your health or beyond your ability to understand, the explanation must be given to your next of kin or guardian.

To give informed, written consent prior to the start of specified, non-emergency medical procedures or treatments. Your physician should explain to you - in words you understand - specific details about the recommended procedure or treatment, any risks involved, time required for recovery, and any reasonable medical alternatives.

To refuse medication and treatment after possible consequences of this decision have been explained clearly to you, unless the situation is life-threatening or the procedure is required by law.

To expect and receive appropriate assessment, management and treatment of pain.

To be included in experimental research only if you give informed, written consent. You have the right to refuse to participate.

Communication and Information. To be informed of the names and functions of all health care professionals providing you with personal care.

To receive, as soon as possible, reasonable accommodations in verbal or written communication that may include interpreter or telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD), someone to sign or information and services for the blind.

To be informed of the names and functions of any outside health care and educational institutions involved in your treatment. You may refuse to allow their participation.

To receive, upon request, the hospital's written policies and procedures regarding life-saving methods and the use or withdrawal of life support mechanisms.

To be advised in writing of the hospital's rules regarding the conduct of patients and visitors.

To receive a summary of your patient rights that includes the name and phone number of the hospital staff member to whom you can direct questions or complain about any possible violation of your rights.

Medical Records. To have prompt access to the information in your medical record. If your physician feels that this access is detrimental to your health, your next of kin or guardian has a right to see your record.

To obtain a copy of your medical record, at a reasonable fee, within 30 days after a written request to the hospital.

Cost of Hospital Care. To receive a copy of the hospital payment rates. If you request an itemized bill, the hospital must provide one, and explain any questions you may have. You have a right to appeal any charges.

To be informed by the hospital if part or all of your bill will not be covered by insurance. The hospital is required to help you obtain any public assistance and private health care benefits to which you may be entitled.

Discharge Planning. To receive information and assistance from your attending physician and other health care providers if you need to arrange for continuing health care after your discharge from the hospital.

To receive sufficient time before discharge to arrange for continuing health care needs.

To be informed by the hospital about any appeal process to which you are entitled by law if you disagree with the hospital's discharge plans.

Transfers. To be transferred to another facility only when you or your family have made the request, or in instances where the transferring hospital is unable to provide you with the care you need.

To receive an advance explanation from a physician of the reasons for your transfer and possible alternatives.

Personal Needs. To be treated with courtesy, consideration, and respect for your dignity and individuality, in a safe and decent environment.

To have access to storage space in your room for private use. The hospital must also have a system to safeguard your personal property.

Private Duty Nursing. To contract directly with a New Jersey licensed registered professional nurse of your choice during your hospitalization. The hospital, upon request, shall provide the patient or designee with a list of registries that refer nurses for private professional care.

Freedom from Abuse and Restraints.

To remain free from physical and mental abuse

Domestic Violence and Rape Hotline
908-788-4044
Division of Youth and Family Services
Hotline 1-800-792-8610
Adult Protective Services
908-788-1300

To remain free from restraints unless authorized by a physician for a limited time for your safety or safety of others.

Privacy and Confidentiality. To have physical privacy during medical treatment and per-

sonal hygiene functions, unless you need assistance.

To confidential management of your information. Information in your records will not be released to anyone outside the hospital without your approval, unless it is required by law.

To understand that Hunterdon Medical Center may use and disclose protected health information with your approval for the purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations.

Legal Rights. To have access to treatment and medical services without discrimination based on age, religion, national origin, sex, sexual preferences, handicap, diagnosis, ability to pay, or source of payment.

To exercise all your constitutional, civil, and legal rights.

Questions and Complaints. To present questions or grievances to a designated hospital staff member and to receive a response in a reasonable period of time. The hospital must provide you with the address and telephone number of the New Jersey Department of Health agency that handles questions and complaints. You may directly contact the N.J. Department of Health Complaint Hotline at 1-800-792-9770.

This list of Patient Rights is an abbreviated summary of the current New Jersey law and regulations governing the rights of hospital patients. For more complete information consult N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services regulations at N.J.A.C. 8:43G-4, or Public Law 1989-Chapter 170, available through your hospital.

We are committed to your rights as a patient; if you have a concern regarding your care or one of these rights please ask to speak to a manager or call:

Patient Advocate 788-6144
Director, Patient Care Services 788-6154
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer 788-6151