



Patients' Rights Guidelines Document

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Patients' Rights Guidelines Document

*by the Kansas City Area Ethics Committee Consortium
of the Center for Practical Bioethics*

Prologue

This document focuses on the ethical rights of patients and the responsibilities of institutions. Therefore, the Ethics Committee Consortium drafting this document chose not to include legal disclaimers. Terms such as "within the limits of the law" have not been included.

If you are unable to exercise these rights, your guardian, next of kin, or legally authorized surrogate has the right to exercise these rights on your behalf.

As a patient, you have the right:

- To be treated with respect by all hospital personnel.
- To have your expressed personal, cultural, and spiritual values and beliefs considered when treatment decisions are made.
- To have a physician primarily responsible for your care and to know who that person is.
- To know the name and professional status of care givers providing service to you.
- To receive complete and current information concerning your diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in terms you can understand.
- To have access to your medical records and to an explanation of all information contained in your records.
- To have any proposed procedure or treatment explained in terms you can understand.

The explanation should include:

- a description of the nature and purpose of the procedure or treatment;
 - the possible benefits;
 - the known serious side effects, risks or drawbacks;
 - problems related to recovery;
 - the likelihood of success;
 - alternative procedures or treatments; and
 - costs — particularly expenses that will be your responsibility.
- To participate with your physicians and other health care providers in planning your health care treatment.
 - To accept or refuse any procedure, drug or treatment and to be informed of the possible consequences of any such decision.
 - To make advance treatment directives and to have them honored.
 - To appoint a person to make health care decisions on your behalf in the event you lose the capacity to do so.
 - To personal privacy. Care discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment will be conducted discreetly.
 - To have all communications and records related to your care be kept confidential.
 - Not to be discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual preference, disability, or source of payment.

- To receive services in response to reasonable requests that are within the institution's capacity and mission.
- To supportive care including appropriate management of pain, treatment of uncomfortable symptoms and support of your psychological and spiritual concerns and needs.
- To assistance in obtaining consultation with another physician.
- To request consultation regarding ethical issues surrounding your care from the institutional ethics committee and other appropriate sources.
- To be transferred to another facility only after having received complete information and explanation concerning the need for and alternatives to such a transfer. (The facility to which you will be transferred must first accept the transfer.)
- To consent or to refuse care that involves research, experimental treatments, or educational projects.
- To complain about your care without fear of recrimination or penalty, to have your complaints reviewed, and, when possible, resolved.
- To be informed by a responsible caregiver about continuing health care requirements and alternatives for meeting those after you are discharged from the hospital.
- To examine your bill and to receive an explanation of the charges.
- To be informed of hospital policies, procedures, rules and regulations applicable to your care.

If you have questions regarding these rights or wish to voice a concern about a possible violation of your rights, you may contact the Center for Practical Bioethics at (816) 221-1100.

This document was completed in 1992 with revisions in 1997, and 2015.

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