

SALEM TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS

THE PATIENT HAS THE RIGHT:

- To considerate and respectful care, regardless of national origin, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, disability, age, or source of payment for care.
- To obtain from his physician complete current information concerning his diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis in terms the patient can be reasonably expected to understand; to be fully informed in advance of care or treatment and to actively participate in the planning of his care. 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.
- To receive from his physician information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure an/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 benefits of the treatment and/or procedure. Where medically significant alternatives for care or treatment exist, or when the patient requests 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.
- To be fully informed of and to consent or refuse to participate in any unusual, experimental or research project without compromising his access to services.
- To obtain information as to any relationships of the hospital to other healthcare and educational institutions insofar as his care is concerned. The patient has the right to obtain information regarding the professional status of any person providing his care and services.
- To know by name, the physician responsible for coordinating his care and to know the reason(s) for any proposed change in the professional staff responsible for his care.
- To every consideration of his privacy concerning his own medical care. Patient care includes, but is not limited to, case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment. All care is confidential and should be conducted discreetly. Those not directly involved in a patient's care must have the permission of the patient to be present.
- To have all communications and all records maintained by the facility that contain protected health information treated confidentially.
- To access information contained in his clinical records maintained by the facility.
- To expect that the hospital will give necessary health services to the best of its ability. Treatment, referral, or transfer may be recommended. If transfer is recommended or requested, you will be informed of the risks, benefits and alternatives. The patient will not be transferred until the other facility agrees to accept him.
- To know the relationship of the facility to other persons or organizations participating in the provisions of his care.
- To access the cost, receive an itemized explanation when possible, of the services rendered within a reasonable time period, regardless of the source of payment.
- To be informed of the source of the facilities reimbursement for his services, and the limitations, this may be placed upon his care.
- To be free from unnecessary use of physical or chemical restraint and/or seclusion as a means of coercion, convenience or retaliation.
- To have an advanced directive(s), such as a living will or power of attorney for healthcare. These documents express your choices about your future care or name someone to decide if you are unable to make the decision yourself.
- To have a family member or representative of his/her choice and his or her own physician notified promptly of his or her admission to the hospital.
- To be informed of the right to have pain treated effectively as possible.
- To voice without recrimination complaints regarding the care received, to have those complaints reviewed and when possible, resolved.
- To expect reasonable continuity of care. The right to know in advance what appointment times and physicians are available and where. The patient has the right to expect that the hospital will provide a mechanism whereby he is informed by physician or delegate of the physician of the patient's continuing healthcare requirements following discharge.
- To receive care in a safe setting.
- The right to be free from all forms of abuse and harassment.
- To participate in any discussion concerning ethical issues arising from his care.

PATIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A patient has the responsibility to provide to the best of his knowledge accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and other matters relating to his health. He has the responsibility to report unexpected changes in his condition to the responsible practitioner. A patient is responsible for reporting whether he clearly comprehends a contemplated course of action and what is expected of him.
- A patient is responsible for following the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner primarily responsible for his care. This also includes following the instructions of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the coordinated plan of care, implement the responsible practitioner's orders and enforce the applicable hospital rules and regulations. The patient is responsible for keeping appointments, and when unable to do so for any reason, he should notify the responsible practitioner or the hospital.
- The patient is responsible for his actions, if he refuses treatment or does not follow the practitioner's instructions.
- The patient is responsible for not smoking in all areas of the hospital grounds.
- The patient is responsible for following hospital rules and regulations affecting care and conduct.
- The hospital works to provide care efficiently and fairly to all patients. You and your visitors are responsible for being considerate of the needs of other patients, staff and the hospital. You are responsible for providing information for insurance and for working with the hospital to arrange payment, when needed.
- Your health depends not just on your hospital care but on the decisions you make in your daily life. You are responsible for recognizing the effect of life-style on your personal health.