

## BASIC RIGHTS FOR HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS

- A. You have the right to reasonable response to requests and needs for treatment or service within the hospital's capacity, its stated mission and applicable law and regulation.
- B. You have the right to considerate and respectful care. This right includes:
  - 1. Consideration of psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural variables that influence the perceptions of illness;
  - 2. Care of the dying patient that optimizes the comfort and dignity of the patient through:
    - a. Treating primary and secondary symptoms that respond to treatment as desired by the patient or surrogate decision-maker;
    - b. Effectively managing pain; and,
    - c. Acknowledging the psychosocial and spiritual concerns of the patient and the family regarding dying and the expression of grief by the patient and family.
- C. You have the right, in collaboration with your physician, to make decisions involving your health care; including:
  - 1. The right to accept medical care or to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law and be informed of the medical consequences of any such refusal; and
  - 2. The rights to formulate advance directives and appoint a surrogate to make health care decisions on your behalf to the extent permitted by law;
    - a. In formulating an advance directive, the hospital shall have in place a mechanism to ascertain the existence of and assist in the filing of advance directives at the time of admission;
    - b. The provision of care shall not be conditioned on the existence of an advance directive; and,
    - c. An advance directive shall be in the patient's medical record and shall be reviewed periodically with the patient or surrogate decision-maker.
- D. You have the right to information necessary to enable you to make treatment decisions that reflect your wishes. A policy on informed decision making shall be developed by the medical staff and governing body and shall be consistent with any legal requirements.
- E. You have the right to receive, at the time of admission, information about the hospital's patient rights policy and the mechanism for the initiation, review, and, when possible resolution of patient complaints concerning the quality of care.
- F. You have the right or have your designated representative participate in the consideration of ethical issues that arise in the care of the patient. The hospital shall have a mechanism for the consideration of ethical issues arising in the care of patients and to provide education to caregivers and patients on ethical issues in health care.
- G. You have the right to be informed of any human experimentation or other research or educational projects affecting your care or treatment.

- H. You have the right, within the limits of law, to personal privacy and confidentiality of information.
- I. You and/or your legally designated representative have access to the information contained in the medical records, within the limits of the law.
- J. Your guardian, next of kin, or legally authorized responsible person has the right to exercise, to the extent permitted by law, the rights delineated on behalf of you, the patient, if you the patient:
  - 1. Has been adjudicated incompetent in accordance with the law;
  - 2. Is found by the physician to be medically incapable of understanding the proposed treatment or procedure;
  - 3. Is unable to communicate your wishes regarding treatment; or
  - 4. Is a minor.

Extracted from Texas Administrative Code for Hospitals  
As provided by the Texas Department of Health  
Health Facility Licensure and Certification Division

## PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The patient has the responsibility to provide, to the best of his/her knowledge, accurate and complete information. He/she has the responsibility to report unexpected changes in condition to the responsible practitioner. He/she is responsible for reporting whether he clearly comprehends a contemplated course of action and what is expected of him/her.
- B. The patient is responsible for following the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner responsible for his/her care. This includes instructions of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the coordinated plan of care, implement the practitioner's orders, and enforce applicable hospital rules and regulations.
- C. The patient is responsible for his/her actions if she refuses treatment or does not follow instructions.
- D. The patient is responsible for assuring the financial obligations of his/her health care are fulfilled.
- E. The patient is responsible for following hospital rules and regulations affecting patient care and conduct.
- F. The patient is responsible for being considerate of the rights of other patients and hospital personnel. The patient is responsible for being respectful of the property of other patients and of the hospital.