



Dear Friend,

As a patient in a hospital in New York State, you have rights and protections guaranteed by state and federal laws and regulations. These laws and regulations

help ensure the quality and safety of your hospital care.

This brochure lists the New York State Patients' Bill of Rights as well as important phone numbers if you have questions or concerns about the quality of care received by yourself or a loved one.

As your Assembly representative, I am dedicated to ensuring quality health care in all of the health facilities in the state. Review these rights carefully and share this brochure with your family and friends who may be involved with hospital care.

If you would like more information on this or any other topic, feel free to contact my office. I hope this brochure helps.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III
Member of Assembly

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Important phone numbers

NYS Department of Health
Hospital Program Regional Offices

Buffalo

716-847-4357

Rochester

585-423-8053

Syracuse

315-477-8592 • 315-477-8561

Capital District

518-408-5329

New York Metropolitan Area

212-417-5990

Long Island

631-851-4300

Hospital complaint hotline

800-804-5447

Problems or questions

Remember, every patient is unique, every hospital stay is different. It is important to know what specific rights apply to you and what to do if you feel you need help. If you have a concern, problem or complaint related to any aspect of care during your hospital stay, speak to your doctor, nurse or hospital staff member.

Many hospitals have a patient representative or office to help you in resolving your concerns. If hospital staff cannot resolve the problem, you can contact the New York State Department of Health office in your area for assistance. This local office can advise you about what to do if you have specific complaints, problems or questions.

New York State Assembly Guide to Patients' Bill of Rights



Know your rights
as a patient in any
hospital in
New York State

Courtesy of...

Assemblymember
John T. McDonald III
www.assembly.state.ny.us

Patients' Bill of Rights in New York State

As a patient in a hospital in New York State, you have the right to:

1. Understand and use these rights. If – *for any reason* – you do not understand or you need help, the hospital **MUST** provide assistance, including an interpreter.
2. Receive treatment without discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or source of payment.
3. Receive considerate and respectful care in a clean and safe environment free of unnecessary restraints.
4. Receive emergency care if you need it.
5. Be informed of the name and position of the doctor who will be in charge of your care in the hospital.
6. Know the names, positions and functions of any hospital staff involved in your care and refuse their treatment, examination or observation.
7. A no smoking room.
8. Receive complete information about your diagnosis, treatment and prognosis.
9. Receive all the information that you need to give informed consent for any proposed procedure or treatment. This information shall include the possible risks and benefits of the procedure or treatment.
10. Receive all the information you need to give informed consent for an order not to resuscitate. You also have the right to designate an individual to give this consent for you if you are too ill to do so.
11. Refuse treatment and be told what effect this may have on your health.
12. Refuse to take part in research. In deciding whether or not to participate, you have the right to a full explanation.
13. Privacy while in the hospital and confidentiality of all information and records regarding your care.
14. Participate in all decisions about your treatment and discharge from the hospital. The hospital must provide you with a written discharge plan and written description of how you can appeal your discharge.
15. Review your medical record without charge. Obtain a copy of your medical record for which the hospital can charge a reasonable fee. You cannot be denied a copy solely because you cannot afford to pay.
16. Receive an itemized bill and explanation of all charges.
17. Complain without fear of reprisals about the care and services you are receiving and to have the hospital respond to you and, if you request it, a written response. If you are not satisfied with the hospital's response, you can complain to the New York State Health Department. The hospital must provide you with the state Health Department telephone number.
18. Authorize those family members and other adults who will be given priority to visit consistent with your ability to receive visitors.
19. Make known your wishes in regard to anatomical gifts. You may document your wishes in your health care proxy form or on a donor card, available from the hospital.

Filing a complaint about a doctor or physician assistant

If you feel that you have received incompetent, negligent or fraudulent care from a doctor or physician assistant, you may file a report with the state Department of Health Office of Professional Medical Conduct. This office investigates all reports of possible professional misconduct by physicians, physician assistants and specialist assistants. Reports must include the full name and address of the doctor or physician assistant and all relevant information and must be made in writing to:

New York State Department of Health Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC)

Hedley Park Place, Suite 1000
433 River St.

Troy, NY 12180-2299

To get more information or to obtain a complaint form, call them at:
800-663-6114.

If you feel you have received incompetent, negligent or fraudulent care from any other licensed health care professionals, such as nurses, dentists, pharmacists, social workers, optometrists, psychologists, physical or occupational therapists and podiatrists, you may file a complaint by contacting:

New York State Education Department Office of Professional Discipline

www.op.nysed.gov/opd/
800-442-8106