

# PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Adapted from Public Health Law (PHL)2803 (l)(g)Patient's Rights. IONYCRR, 40S.7.40S.7(a)(l),40S.7(c)

**As a patient in a hospital in New York State, the LAW gives you the RIGHT to:**

- 1. Understand and use these rights.** If for any reason you do not understand or you need help, the hospital MUST help you, **including getting an interpreter.**
- 2. Treatment without discrimination** because of your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or how you are paying.
- 3. Considerate and respectful care** in a clean and safe environment free of unnecessary restraints.
- 4. Emergency care** if you need it.
- 5. Be told the name and job of the doctor** who will be in charge of your care in the hospital.
- 6. Know the names, job titles, and work done by any hospital staff** who takes care of you and refuse to have them treat, examine or observe you.
- 7. A “no smoking” room.**
- 8. Complete information about your illness** including diagnosis, treatment, how much pain you may have, and prognosis (how successful your treatment is expected to be).
- 9. Be told about the risks and benefits of any treatment or procedure**, so that you can give your “informed” consent before you have any procedure or treatment.
- 10. Receive all information you need about a “do not resuscitate order” (DNR)** which means “do not bring back to life” before giving consent. You also have the right to choose a person to give consent for you if you are too ill to do it yourself.
- 11. Refuse treatment** and be told what effect refusing may have on your health.
- 12. Refuse to take part in research.** You have the right to a full explanation about the research to help you decide that you do or do not choose to participate.
- 13. Privacy** while in the hospital and confidentiality for all information and records about 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 if you feel that it is too soon for you to leave the hospital.
- 15. Look at your medical record without paying anything.** Be given a copy of your medical record to take home, and be charged a reasonable fee for it. You cannot be denied a copy because you cannot afford to pay for it.
- 16. Receive an itemized bill and explanation of all charges.**
- 17. Complain about your care** without fear that complaining will change how you are cared for, and have the hospital respond to you and, if you ask, give you a written response. If you are not satisfied with the hospital's response, you can complain to the New York State Health Department by calling 1-800-804-5447.
- 18. Authorize who can visit you**, if you are only allowed to have a few visitors at a time.
- 19. Say that you do or do not wish to give parts of your body as an anatomical gift.** You may document your wishes in your health care proxy or on a donor card, available from the hospital