



# Patient Rights and Responsibilities

When you have a medical appointment, you have many rights as a patient, as well as responsibilities to yourself, to other patients, and to your doctor.

## You have a right to:

- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Ask questions until you understand your health concerns, diagnosis, or treatment.
- Ask that a nurse or someone you trust be present during your appointment.
- Review your health records.
- Have information related to your health explained in clear, easy-to-understand terms.
- Decide whether you wish to be treated. If you refuse treatment, you will be informed of the medical consequences of your decision.
- Change your mind about any procedure for which you have given consent.
- Voice concerns regarding the quality of care you receive without it having a negative effect on your care. If you have a complaint or feel your rights are not being respected, please let the staff know or talk to someone you trust.
- Know the names of those responsible for your care.
- Expect that all information that relate to your care is kept confidential.
- Know the benefits and risks of a procedure or treatment prescribed for you.
- Refuse to sign a consent form if you feel everything has not been clearly explained.
- You can cross out any part of the consent form that you do not want applied to your care.
- Change doctors or other caregivers if you choose.

## You also have certain responsibilities to:

- Provide accurate and complete information about your present health and your medical history. This includes past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications you are taking, and other health matters. Inform the doctor about any alternative therapies, complementary therapies, herbs, and/or vitamins that you are using.
- Ask questions until you clearly understand your health concerns, diagnosis, and/or treatment (*also listed above as your right.*)
- Respect the privacy of other patients.

