

# Patient's Bill of Rights

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## OBJECTIVES/RATIONALE

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All patients have basic rights to receive considerate and respectful health care. It is the health care provider's legal and ethical responsibility to know the patient's rights. The student will identify patient rights as defined by the American Hospital Association and also explain implied patient duties.

TEKS: 121.4 (c) 7F

TAKS: ELA 1, 2, 3, 4  
Social Studies 4, 5

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## KEY POINTS

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- I. The Patient's Bill of Rights promotes patient autonomy.
- II. In 1973, the American Hospital Association approved a statement constituting a Patient's Bill of Rights which guarantees the patient's right to:
  - a. Receive considerate and respectful care.
  - b. Receive complete current information concerning his/her diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis.
  - c. Receive information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure and/or treatment.
  - d. Refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law.
  - e. Receive every consideration of his or her privacy.
  - f. Be assured of confidentiality.
  - g. Obtain reasonable responses to requests for services.
  - h. Obtain information about his or her health care.
  - i. Know whether treatment is experimental.
  - j. Expect reasonable continuity of care.
  - k. Examine his/her bill and have it explained.
  - l. Know which hospital rules and regulations apply to patient conduct.
- III. A copy of the Patient's Bill of Rights should be readily visible in all hospitals
- IV. Anyone admitted to a hospital should receive a copy of the Patient's Bill of Rights at the time of admission.
- V. The patient also has implied responsibilities:
  - a. To follow any instructions given by the physician and to cooperate as much as possible.
  - b. To give all relevant information to the physician in order to reach a correct diagnosis
    - i. If an incorrect diagnosis is made because the patient fails to give the physician proper information, the physician may not be liable.
  - c. To follow the physician's orders for treatment, provided the treatment meets the accepted standard of care.
    - i. If patient willfully or negligently fails to follow the physician's instructions, that patient may have little legal recourse.
  - d. To pay fees charged for services rendered.

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## ACTIVITIES

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- I. Summarize policies of local health care facilities concerning the Patient's Bill of Rights.
- II. Develop scenarios that depict a breach of patient rights.

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## MATERIALS NEEDED

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Copies of Patient's Bill of Rights for students  
<http://www.aha.org/resource/pbillofrights.asp>

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## ASSESSMENT

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True/False Quiz

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

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For reinforcement, the student will outline the patient rights.

For enrichment, the student will develop a videotape documentary or a poster that explains a patient's rights while hospitalized.

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## REFLECTIONS

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

### Quiz: Patient's Bill of Rights

*Circle the correct answer.*

- True False 1. Patients may not refuse treatment.
- True False 2. Patients have the right to know whether medical treatment is experimental.
- True False 3. Patients have the right to smoke in the hospital.
- True False 4. Patient duties imply that they should give a physician all information that may be pertinent to their case—even if this information is strictly personal.
- True False 5. Patient's generally do not have to receive explanations for medical treatment in order to give informed consent.
- True False 6. Patient's are not obliged to follow physician orders.
- True False 7. All patients have the right to confidentiality.
- True False 8. Patients may examine their bills, but cannot expect to have them explained due to The many extraneous charges that are accrued.
- True False 9. When patients are disrespectful to health professionals, they should not expect considerate and respectful care.
- True False 10. Patients who are hospitalized cannot expect consideration of privacy due to the intimate nature of many exams and procedures.

Answers:

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. False

6. False
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. False