



### **PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS BY ELIZABETH EADS, D.O.**

A Patient's Bill Of Rights was first adopted by the American Hospital Association in 1973. It was revised in 1992. The bill stipulates that hospitals must ensure a health care ethic—an ethic that respects the role of patients in decision making about treatment choices and other aspects of their care. Hospitals must be sensitive to cultural, racial, linguistic, religious, age and other differences as well as the needs of the persons with disabilities.[1]

These rights must be posted and printed for patients to read. They are often included in the admission packet or electronic admission record. A patient may request the admission paperwork be printed before signing to avoid hidden electronic consents such as intubation, administration of vaccines, or substitution of medications with bioequivalent or experimental medications. If the patient does not agree with the admission language it is recommended that they strike through the item and initial it. It now becomes part of the official record.

There are four goals of medical treatment: preventative, curative, management, and palliative. The patient is choosing what he/she considers to be the best outcome from among these treatments.

It is unethical to physically force or coerce a patient into treatment against his or her will if they are of sound mind and mentally capable of making decisions. It is important to take steps to be sure that the patient is making informed decisions by providing the hospital with Advanced Directives and Medical Power of Attorney.

Healthcare professionals have a responsibility to provide medical treatment to any person with an emergency medical condition. Patients have the right to emergency medical treatment regardless of their vaccination status or their ability to pay.[2]

Patients have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and not be discriminated against for any reason prohibited by federal, state or local Law. Patients also have the right to be treated humanely and

never subjected to degrading treatment by a healthcare professional.  
[3]

The most important right that the patients possess is the right of informed consent. They should only consent to medical treatment if they have sufficient information about their diagnosis and all the treatment options including details of procedures and possible adverse outcomes, medications, side effects, ingredients, and all possible side effects. This must be provided in writing.

Patients have the right to refuse medical treatment, procedures, medication, laboratory testing (COVID PCR), studies, and experimental procedures/devices (COVID SHOTS). They retain the final decision regarding the medical treatment they receive as long as they have capacity under the law.[4] Patients may appoint a Healthcare Proxy to make these decisions.

All patients have a right to choose their physician, and healthcare services such as specialists, home healthcare, longterm care facility, or other healthcare professionals outside the hospital. Patients have the right to fire a doctor at any time during their care and expect the hospital to provide continuity of care. [5]

Patients have the right to decide to whom, when, and to what extent their private individually identifiable health information is disclosed. This includes medical diagnosis, treatment plans, prescriptions, health insurance information, genetic information, PCR testing, clinical research/trials records and mental health records. A lack of privacy could lead to personal embarrassment, public humiliation, and discrimination as we are witnessing in the unvaccinated patients all across America.[6]

They also have the right to a fair review or appeal of any complaint against a physician, hospital or any other healthcare provider. This includes the adequacy of treatment, the actions of the healthcare personnel, wait times, billing and payment issues, cost of treatment, and operating hours.[7]

Lastly, patients have a number of responsibilities to the medical facility/hospital including participation in their treatment plan, timely resolution of their financial obligation and respectful interaction with staff.

AHA Patient's Bill of Rights: <https://www.americanpatient.org/ahapatient-bill-of-rights/>

[1-7] APRA American Patient Rights Association

