

Patient Rights and Responsibilities

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1. Introduction

- Patient rights are the entitlements that protect people receiving healthcare.
- Responsibilities are the duties patients have to support safe and effective care.

2. Key Patient Rights

- **Right to information:** to receive clear details about diagnosis, treatment, and risks.
- **Right to consent:** to accept or refuse treatment voluntarily.
- **Right to confidentiality:** to have personal health information protected.
- **Right to dignity:** to be treated with respect regardless of background.

3. Right to Access and Safety

- Patients are entitled to timely, non-discriminatory access to care.
- They have a right to a safe environment and competent treatment.

4. Patient Responsibilities

- Provide accurate health information to providers.
- Follow agreed treatment plans and respect staff and other patients.

5. Importance and Challenges

- Recognising rights builds trust and improves outcomes.
- Challenges include illiteracy, power imbalances, and limited awareness.

6. Summary

- Rights and responsibilities form a two-way partnership between patients and providers.
- Respecting both promotes ethical, safe, and effective healthcare.