

Patient Rights and Responsibilities

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1. Introduction

- Patient rights are entitlements that protect dignity, safety, and autonomy during care.
- Responsibilities are the duties patients hold to support effective and safe treatment.

2. Fundamental Patient Rights

- **Right to information:** clear explanation of diagnosis, treatment options, and risks.
- **Right to consent:** to accept or refuse treatment voluntarily.
- **Right to privacy and confidentiality:** protection of personal health information.

3. Additional Rights

- Right to access emergency care without discrimination.
- Right to a second opinion and to view one's own medical records.
- Right to lodge complaints and seek redress for poor care.

4. Patient Responsibilities

- Providing accurate health history and symptom information.
- Following agreed treatment plans and instructions.
- Showing respect for staff, other patients, and facility rules.

5. Importance in Practice

- Upholding rights builds trust and improves treatment outcomes.
- Shared responsibility encourages a partnership model of care.
- Many countries enshrine these in a formal Patient Charter or Bill of Rights.