

## **Patients' Rights and Responsibilities for Diagnostic & Treatment Centers (Clinics)**

These Patients' Rights and Responsibilities are designed to establish an equal and effective partnership between doctors, health care providers and patients, which will enable each NYC Health + Hospitals facility to promote and protect the best health care possible for its patients in the fullest sense, to achieve total physical, mental and social well-being for each patient.

### **Patients' Rights**

**As a patient in a Clinic in New York State, you have the right, consistent with law, to:**

1. Receive service(s) without regard to age, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, sex, gender identity, national origin or sponsor;
2. Be treated with consideration, respect and dignity including privacy in treatment;
3. Be informed of the services available at the center;
4. Be informed of the provisions for off-hour emergency coverage;
5. Be informed of and receive an estimate of the charges for services, view a list of the health plans and the hospitals that the center participates with; eligibility for third-party reimbursements and, when applicable, the availability of free or reduced cost care;
6. Receive an itemized copy of his/her account statement, upon request;
7. Obtain from his/her health care practitioner, or the health care practitioner's delegate, complete and current information concerning his/her diagnosis, treatment and prognosis in terms the patient can be reasonably expected to understand;
8. Receive from his/her physician information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any nonemergency procedure or treatment or both. An informed consent shall include, as a minimum, the provision of information concerning the specific procedure or treatment or both, the reasonably foreseeable risks involved, and alternatives for care or treatment, if any, as a reasonable medical practitioner under similar circumstances would disclose in a manner permitting the patient to make a knowledgeable decision;
9. Refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law and to be fully informed of the medical consequences of his/her action;
10. Refuse to participate in experimental research;
11. Voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services to the center's staff, the operator and the New York State Department of Health without fear of reprisal;
12. Express complaints about the care and services provided and to have the center investigate such complaints. The center is responsible for providing the patient or his/her designee with a written response within 30 days if requested by the patient indicating the findings of the investigation. The center is also responsible for notifying the patient or his/her

designee that if the patient is not satisfied by the center's response, the patient may complain to the New York State Department of Health;

13. Privacy and confidentiality of all information and records pertaining to the patient's treatment;
14. Approve or refuse the release or disclosure of the contents of his/her medical record to any health care practitioner and/or health care facility except as required by law or third-party payment contract;
15. Access to his/her medical record per Section 18 of the Public Health Law, and Subpart 50-3. For additional information link to:  
[http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1449/section\\_1.htm#access](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/1449/section_1.htm#access);
16. Authorize those family members and other adults who will be given priority to visit consistent with your ability to receive visitors;
17. When applicable, make known your wishes in regard to anatomical gifts. Persons sixteen years of age or older may document their consent to donate their organs, eyes and/or tissues, upon their death, by enrolling in the NYS Donate Life Registry or by documenting their authorization for organ and/or tissue donation in writing in a number of ways (such as a health care proxy, will, donor card, or other signed paper). The health care proxy is available from the center;
18. View a list of the health plans and the hospitals that the center participates with; and
19. Receive an estimate of the amount that you will be billed after services are rendered.

*Patients' Rights, 10 NYCRR § 751.9.*

## **Patient Responsibilities**

As a patient at a NYC Health + Hospitals Clinic, your responsibilities are:

1. To provide accurate and complete information to your health care provider about your present and past medical conditions and all other matters pertaining to your health.
2. To report unexpected changes in your condition to your health care providers.
3. To inform your health care providers whether or not you understand the plan of care and what is expected of you.
4. To follow the treatment plan recommended by your health care providers.
5. To keep appointments, and if you cannot, notify the proper person.
6. To be responsible for the results of your own actions, if you refuse treatment or do not follow the providers' instructions.
7. To be considerate of the rights of other patients and Clinic personnel, and to follow Clinic policy and regulations regarding care and conduct.
8. To fulfill your financial obligations to the Clinic as promptly as possible.
9. Respect the property of other persons and of the Clinic.