

Patient Bill of Rights

When you are admitted to the hospital you do not lose your rights as an individual. We want you to know your rights, so we are listing them here.

AS A PATIENT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:

- to considerate and respectful care at all times regardless of sex, race, religion, national origin, sexual preference, or ability to pay
- to have advance directives such as a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and to have hospital and medical staff comply with these directives
- to have an attending physician who is responsible for coordination care and to participate in the development and implementation of the plan of care
- to receive information needed to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure or treatment except in emergencies
- to refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the medical consequences
- to access information in your medical records within a reasonable timeframe and to have the information explained, except when contraindicated by law
- to privacy concerning medical treatment and personal privacy
- to have all communications and records pertaining to care treated as confidential
- to know that the hospital will respond reasonably to requests for services such as a transfer to another room or facility
- to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service and to know which practitioner is primarily responsible for your care
- to know the existence of any professional relations among caregivers as well as the relationship to any other healthcare or educational institutions involved in your care
- to know if the hospital is going to engage in research affecting your care and treatment, and to refuse to participate in such research projects with out its affecting hospital care
- to have continuity of care; to be informed of any continuing healthcare requirements following discharge
- to receive an itemized, detailed, and understandable explanation of charges
- to know that hospital rules and regulations apply to your conduct
- to have a guardian, reciprocal beneficiary*, or immediate family member stay with you 24 hours a day, if possible, if you are a child or are terminally ill
- to have an interpreter if a language barrier or hearing impairment presents a continuing problem to understanding care and treatment
- to file a grievance verbally or in writing or to have a personal representative do it
- to have a family member and your own physician notified promptly of your admission
- to receive care in a safe setting and to be free from abuse and harassment
- to be free from restraints of any form that are not clinically necessary or which are used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation by the staff
- to have pain managed effectively
- to discuss your problem with someone outside the hospital (see contacts below)

Vermont Board of Health
P.O. Box 70
Burlington, Vermont 05402
1-800-745-7371

Vermont Board of Medical Practice
109 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05609-1106
1-800-439-8683 or 828-2363

Department of Aging & Disabilities
Division of Licensing & Protection
103 S. Main Street
Waterbury, Vermont 05671
Telephone: 1-800-564-1612 or 1-802-241-2345
Fax: 1-802-241-2358

For HIPAA-related issues, include DHHS

Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

**Parties to a civil union or reciprocal beneficiaries are included within the definitions of spouse, family, immediate family, dependent, and next of kin.*



Brattleboro Memorial Hospital
Caring for our Community