

## **YOUR RIGHTS AS A PATIENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

When you or your loved one needs medical care, you want the most appropriate and best care available. As a patient in a Texas hospital, you have certain legal rights concerning your medical treatment. This is designed to help you understand those rights. After reading this, if you have questions, need further information, or wish to execute an advanced directive, contact your physician or nurse.

### **PATIENT RIGHTS**

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights respects the rights of the patient and recognizes that each patient is an individual with unique health care needs. Because of the importance of respecting each patient's dignity, we strive to provide considerate, respectful care, focused on the patient's individual needs.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights affirms the patient's right to make decisions regarding his/her medical care, including decisions to discontinue treatment, to the extent permitted by law.

Seton Medical Center Harker Heights shall assist the patient in the exercise of his/her rights and inform the patient of any responsibilities necessary of him/her in the exercise of those rights.

### **PATIENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO EXPECT THE FOLLOWING:**

- Reasonable response to his/her requests and needs for treatment or service, within the hospital's capacity, its stated mission, and applicable laws and regulations.
- Considerate and respectful care as evidence by: Consideration of the psychosocial, spiritual, and cultural differences that influence the understanding of illness.
- Care of the dying patient emphasizing the comfort and dignity of the patient through treating symptoms that respond to treatment as designated decision maker.
- Effective management of pain.
- Acknowledgement of the psychosocial and spiritual concerns of the patient and family regarding dying and the expression of grief by the patient and family.
- Collaboration with his/her physicians in making informed decisions involving his/her health care.
- This will include:
  - The right to accept or to refuse medical treatment, to the extent permitted by law and to be informed of the medical consequences of such refusal.
  - Formulating advance directives and appointing another decision maker to make health care decisions on his/her behalf to the extent permitted by law.
  - Information necessary to enable him/her to make treatment decisions that reflect his/her wishes.

- Information at the time of admission about the hospital's patient rights policies and the mechanism for the initiation, review, and when possible, resolution of patient complaints concerning the quality of care.
- Participation by the patient or patient's designated representative in consideration of ethical issues that arise in the care of the patient.
- To be informed of any human experimentation or other research/educational projects affecting his/her care or treatment.
- Personal privacy and confidentiality of information, within the limits of law and access to information contained in the patient's medical record, within a reasonable time frame.
- To receive care in a safe setting and to be free from all forms of abuse or harassment.
- To have family members or representatives of his/her own choice and his/her own physician notified promptly of his/her admission to the hospital.
- To be free of restraints, of any form, that are not medically necessary.

If a patient is a minor; declared legally incompetent, or medically incapable of voicing wishes about medical treatment, the patient's guardian, next of kin, or legally authorized responsible person may exercise the patient's rights as allowed by law, on behalf of the patient.

**PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Be honest and direct about everything that relates to you as a patient. Answer questions honestly and completely and inform care givers exactly how you feel about things happening to you.
- Seton Medical Center Harker Heights wants you to understand your health condition to your satisfaction. Speak to your physicians if you do not understand your illness or treatment.
- Tell your nurses and/or your physician about any change in your health status while you are a patient at Seton Medical Center Harker Heights.
- Advise those treating you whether you can, or will, follow the treatment plan.
- Keep your appointment and cooperate with physicians and others caring for you to assure continuity of your care.
- Know and tell your physician the names of medications you have recently been taking as well as well as their purpose.
- Tell your physician about personal habits affecting your health such as smoking, alcohol intake, and sleep patterns.
- Know the names of physicians responsible for your care.
- Refrain from making unreasonable demands upon the facility or upon those responsible for your care.
- Be considerate of other patients and respect their right to privacy.
- Be prompt about paying your hospital bills, providing information necessary for insurance processing of your bill and asking questions concerning your bill.

Notify appropriate persons in the hospital as soon as possible if, in your opinion, you are not being treated fairly or properly.