

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These are basic principles that all dialysis and transplant programs should follow in dealing with the needs of patients. Most of these principles are already guaranteed by either state and federal law or long-accepted principles of medical ethics.

We urge you to read this Bill of Rights and Responsibilities thoroughly. If you have questions concerning your rights as a consumer, you should discuss them with your health care team.

Every kidney patient should be guaranteed competent, high quality care and treatment given with respect and dignity. It is our belief that the informed patient is better equipped to cope with the stresses and decisions that may arise during his/her chosen therapy.

PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

You have the responsibility to...

- Learn all you can about your disease, its symptoms, treatment options, and your rights and responsibilities as a kidney patient.
- Recognize what an emergency is and what actions must be taken in emergency situations.
- Communicate with your health care team.
- Obtain and take the medications prescribed to you or discuss with your health care team why you are unable to do so. Learn what medications you take, why you take them, and how they should be taken.
- Follow your diet and fluid restrictions. If you do not understand or are unable to follow your diet, ask for more instructions.
- Make every effort to arrive for your scheduled dialysis treatment on time and inform the unit if you are unable to come.
- Be considerate of others by following facility rules and regulations.

This material was prepared by Network 13 under contract HHSM-500-2006-NW013C with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

PATIENT RIGHTS

You have the right to...

- Equal consideration of treatment without regard to age, sex, race, religion, or ethnic origin.
- Become fully informed of all forms of kidney disease treatment options available to you.
- Be informed about the reason for tests and medications you are advised to take and be provided clear explanation of results.
- Be informed of your access to psychological, social work, dietary, vocational rehabilitation and other services.
- Be given education on what to do in case of an emergency that results in your dialysis facility's inability to provide dialysis treatments.
- Be informed of the process for handling grievances.
- Be informed of treatment-related charges including any charges for services not covered under Medicare.

