

## POLICY: PATIENTS' RIGHTS

The patient has the right:

To be informed of these rights, as evidenced by the patient's written acknowledgement, or by documentation by staff in the medical record, that the patient was offered a written copy of these rights and given a written or verbal explanation of these rights, in terms the patient could understand. The facility shall have a means to notify patients of any rules and regulations it has adopted governing patient conduct in the facility;

To be informed of services available in the facility, of the names and professional status of the personnel providing and/or responsible for the patient's care, and of fees and related charges, including the payment, fee, deposit, and refund policy of the facility and any charges for services not covered by sources of third-party payment or not covered by the facility's basic rate;

To be informed if the facility has authorized other health care and educational institutions to participate in the patient's treatment. The patient also shall have a right to know the identity and function of these institutions, and to refuse to allow their participation in the patient's treatment and to change physicians if he or she so wishes;

To receive from the patient's physician(s) or clinical practitioner(s), in terms that the patient understands, and explanation of his or her complete medical/health condition or diagnosis, recommended treatment, treatment options, including the option of no treatment, risk(s) of treatment, and expected result(s). If this information would be detrimental to the patient's health, or if the patient is not capable of understanding the information, the explanation shall be provided to the patient's next of kin or guardian. This release of information to the next of kin or guardian, along with the reason for not informing the patient directly, shall be documented in the patient's medical record;

To receive as soon as possible, the services of a translator or interpreter if you need one to help you communicate with the Center's health care personnel free of charge;

To participate in the planning of the patient's care and treatment, and to refuse medication and treatment. Such refusal shall be documented in the patient's medical record;

To change primary or specialty physicians if other qualified physicians are available.

Has the right to continuity of health care. The physician may not discontinue treatment of a patient as long as further treatment is medically indicated, without giving the patient sufficient opportunity to make alternative arrangements;

To be included in experimental research only when the patient gives informed, written consent to such participation, or when a guardian gives such consent for an incompetent patient in accordance with law, rule and regulation. The patient may refuse to participate in experimental research, including the investigation of new drugs and medical devices;

To voice grievances or recommend changes in policies and services to facility personnel, the governing authority and /or outside representatives of the patient's choice either individually or as a group, and free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal;

To be free from mental and physical abuse, free from exploitation, and free from use of restraints unless they are authorized by a physician for a limited period of time to protect the patient or others from injury. Drugs and other medications shall not be used for discipline of patients or for convenience of facility personnel;

To appropriate assessment and management of pain. To education, including education for the patient's significant others (if applicable), regarding pain and symptom management in the discharge planning process; To expect and receive appropriate assessment, management and treatment of pain as an integral component of that person's care in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:43E-6.

To information regarding credentialing of healthcare professionals;

To confidential treatment of information about the patient. Information in the patient's medical record shall not be released to anyone outside the facility without the patient's approval, unless another health care facility to which the patient was transferred requires the information, or unless the release of the information is required and permitted by law, a third-party payment contract, or a peer review, or unless the information is needed by the New Jersey State Department of Health for statutorily authorized purposes. The facility may release data about the patient for studies containing aggregated statistics when the patient's identity is masked;

## The Center for Ambulatory Surgery, Mountainside, NJ

To be treated with courtesy, consideration, respect, and recognition of the patient's dignity, individuality, and right to privacy, including, but not limited to, auditory and visual privacy. The patient's privacy shall also be respected when facility personnel are discussing the patient;

To not be required to perform work for the facility unless the work is part of the patient's treatment and is performed voluntarily by the patient. Such work shall be in accordance with local, State, and Federal laws and rules;

To exercise civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions. No religious beliefs or practices, or any attendance at religious services, shall be imposed upon any patient; and

To not be discriminated against because of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, or ability to pay, or deprived of any constitutional, civil, and or legal rights solely because of receiving services from the facility.

The administrator shall provide all patients and/or their families upon request with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the following offices where complaints may be lodged:

Division of Health Facilities Evaluation and Licensing  
New Jersey State Department of Health  
CN 367  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0367  
Telephone: (800) 792-9770  
(908) 792-9770

State of New Jersey  
Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly  
CN 808  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625- 0808  
Telephone: 1-877-582-6995

The Administrator shall also provide all patients and or families upon request with the names and telephone numbers of offices where information concerning Medicare and Medicaid coverage may be obtained. Addresses and telephone numbers shall be conspicuously posted throughout the facility, including, but not limited to, the admissions waiting area or room, the patient service area of the business, office and other public areas. The Center needs the cooperation of its patients to ensure that efficient, safe and considerate care is available to all patients.

Patients are responsible for:

1. Providing physicians, center personnel and healthcare providers with complete and accurate information about their medical history and complete and accurate information related to their condition and care.
2. Informing healthcare providers about all the medications they are taking as well as over-the counter products, herbal remedies, and dietary supplements.
3. Adhering to the treatment plans recommended by their doctors.
4. Arranging for a responsible adult to take them home and remain with them for 24 hours if required by their physician.
5. Telling his/her doctor about any living will, power of attorney, or other advanced directives.
6. Being respectful of healthcare professionals, staff members, and other patients.
7. Being responsible for medical consequences, which result from refusing treatment or not following instructions of physicians and surgery center personnel.
8. Being considerate of the Center's staff that is committed to excellence in patient care.
9. Supplying insurance information and paying bills promptly so that the Center can continue to serve its patients effectively. Agreeing to pay any expenses not covered by their insurance.