

# AHA Patient's Bill of Rights

## Your guide to advocacy

These rights can be exercised on the patient's behalf by a designated surrogate or proxy decision-maker if the patient lacks decision-making capacity, is legally incompetent, or is a minor.

1. The patient has the right to considerate and respectful care. *Your well-researched, safe, and effective treatment wishes should be met and respected.*
2. The patient has the right to and is encouraged to obtain from physicians and other direct caregivers relevant, current, and understandable information concerning diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. *All the information provided regarding your Covid19 diagnosis should be explained using sound science and ethical protocols. Many of the protocols and studies they base decisions on are not backed by solid science, and you have the right to that information and how they came to their decisions.*
3. Except in emergencies when the patient lacks decision-making capacity and the need for treatment is urgent, the patient is entitled to the opportunity to discuss and request information related to the specific procedures and/or treatments, the risks involved, the possible length of recuperation, and the medically reasonable alternatives and their accompanying risks and benefits. *It is essential to have an AD (Advance Directive) and Healthcare Proxy in place that lays out your wishes as a patient. Before you lose your decision-making capacities, make it known upfront what treatments you are refusing (i.e., biologics, EUA products, vaccines, ventilators, etc.).*
4. Patients have the right to know the identity of physicians, nurses, and others involved in their care, as well as any students, residents, or other trainees. *Keep consistent records, logs, videos, documentation, etc., of all of your interactions with care staff. Every person involved in the violation of your rights needs to be documented so that they can eventually face accountability for their neglect.*
5. The patient also has the right to know the immediate and long-term financial implications of treatment choices, insofar as they are known. *Demand to see the costs associated with the Covid-19 treatment protocol the hospital is recommending. The in-hospital protocol likely far exceeds the costs of the alternative treatments you are requesting and is a valid argument as to your refusal. The costs of your requested protocol will compare favorably to the NIH experimental and branded offering they are peddling.*
6. The patient has the right to: make decisions about the plan of care prior to and during treatment, refuse a recommended treatment or plan of care to the extent permitted by law and hospital policy, and be informed of the medical consequences of this action. In case of such refusal, the patient is entitled to other appropriate care and services that the hospital provides or the transfer to another hospital. The hospital should notify patients of any policy that might affect patient choice within the institution. *The hospital cannot force you to accept any treatment. If they refuse to acknowledge your wishes, they are required to offer alternatives or transfer. For any refused treatment, demand a printout of the exact policy dictating this decision to confirm that their refusal is legitimate.*

7. The patient has the right to have an advance directive (AD) (such as a living will, health care proxy, or durable power of attorney for health care) concerning treatment or designating a surrogate decision-maker with the expectation that the hospital will honor the intent of that directive to the extent permitted by law and hospital policy. Health care institutions must advise patients of their rights under state law and hospital policy to make informed medical choices, ask if the patient has an advance directive, and include that information in patient records. The patient has the right to timely information about hospital policy that may limit its ability to implement fully a legally valid advance directive. *Many hospitals now have policies that nullify the wishes laid out in your Advance Directive. Therefore, it is important that when they deny your wishes, you are supplied a hard copy of the exact hospital policy they are acting under. These policies are essential for the legal arguments you will face, so both the patient and the staff must understand them well.*
8. The patient has the right to every consideration of privacy. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment should be conducted to protect each patient's privacy.
9. The patient has the right to expect that all communications and records pertaining to his/her care will be treated as confidential by the hospital, except in cases such as suspected abuse and public health hazards when reporting is permitted or required by law. The patient has the right to expect that the hospital will emphasize the confidentiality of this information when it releases it to any other parties entitled to review information in these records. *Some states offer opportunities to "opt-out" of sharing personal medical information, such as vaccination status. Discuss with the hospital any possible option you must opt-out of sharing your medical information and take advantage of those programs ASAP. Ensure to obtain a copy of the hospital policy. They may share your information under certain circumstances, so it is crucial to understand their policies.*
10. The patient has the right to review the records pertaining to his/her medical care and to have the information explained or interpreted as necessary, except when restricted by law. *What is the science behind their medical decisions? Can they provide ample scientific support for their treatment choices? You have a right to know how and why they do what they do.*
11. The patient has the right to expect that, within its capacity and policies, a hospital will make reasonable response to the request of a patient for appropriate and medically indicated care and services. The hospital must provide evaluation, service, and/or referral as indicated by the urgency of the case. When medically appropriate and legally permissible, or when a patient has so requested, a patient may be transferred to another facility. The institution to which the patient is to be transferred must first have accepted the patient for transfer. The patient must also have the benefit of complete information and explanation concerning the need for, risks, benefits, and alternatives to such a transfer. *When refusing treatment, make sure that the facility you are transferred to agrees to treat you according to your wishes. The hospital will be required to arrange this hand-off. Each hospital will have policies established that dictate determining if a patient is suitable for discharge and transfer. Have these policies presented to you in hard copy form to fully understand how your wishes for discharge and transfer are determined or why you are refused.*
12. The patient has the right to ask and be informed of the existence of business relationships among the hospital, educational institutions, other health care providers, or payers that may influence the patient's treatment and care. *Many of these hospitals and institutions currently engaged in false*

*imprisonment have financial ties that incentivize them to follow specific Covid-19 protocols and neglect all other treatment options. Achieving this information from the hospital's administration can be vital in understanding the hospital's motives and providing evidence for their neglect of well-founded, safe, effective, and life-saving treatments.*

13. The patient has *the right to consent to or decline to participate in proposed research studies or human experimentation* affecting care and treatment or requiring direct patient involvement and to have those studies fully explained prior to consent. A patient who declines to participate in research or experimentation is entitled to the most effective care that the hospital can otherwise provide. *Many of the protocols and medications used for Covid-19 in hospitals involve EUA medications/treatment modalities considered experimental. If the hospital's protocol is attempting to provide is part of novel research or involves EUA, experimental products, you have every right to refuse these treatments and request effective alternatives. For example, Remdesivir, a staple in NIH's Covid-19 protocol, is still a EUA product, as is the PCR test. You have a right to refuse either of those or request effective alternatives.*

**Remdesivir EUA document:**

[https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/nda/2020/EUA%20Review%20Remdesivir\\_050120.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2020/EUA%20Review%20Remdesivir_050120.pdf)

**PCR Tests EUA Document:** <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/in-vitro-diagnostics-euas-molecular-diagnostic-tests-sars-cov-2>

14. The patient has *the right to expect reasonable continuity of care when appropriate* and to be informed by physicians and other caregivers of available and realistic patient care options when hospital care is no longer appropriate. *The hospital has the responsibility to ensure that your care needs are being met when hospital care is no longer needed. Since the hospital is denying your treatment requests, they should help you locate possible alternative options.*
15. The patient has *the right to be informed of hospital policies and practices that relate to patient care, treatment, and responsibilities.* *All policies that the hospital cites regarding your case should be gathered as hard copies and reviewed.*
16. The patient has the right to *be informed of available resources for resolving disputes, grievances, and conflicts, such as ethics committees, patient representatives, or other mechanisms available in the institution. You must understand what policies the hospital is acting under to ensure that they are being enacted appropriately and honestly. Many hospitals have committees dedicated to patient advocacy, procedures, ethics, etc. Make sure to take advantage of every service offered and document all interactions with staff in the process.*
17. The patient has the right to be informed of the hospital's charges for services and available payment methods. *Your Healthcare Proxy is an excellent source for reviewing the hospital's policies and engaging with the committees and services offered.*

**Source:** <https://www.americanpatient.org/aha-patients-bill-of-rights/>

An example of state and hospital specific Patient Bill of Rights can be found below:

MA General Laws - **Patients' and Residents' Rights**

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexvi/chapter111/section70e>

Beth Israel Lahey Health – **Patient Rights**

<https://www.lahey.org/lhmc/your-visit/at-the-hospital/patient-rights/>