



Department of Health

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June 24, 2019

DHDTC DAL 19-01

Dear Hospital CEOs and Clinic Administrators:

As required by Public Health Law Section 2803, all hospital and diagnostic and treatment center (clinic) operators are required to provide the appropriate Patients' Bill of Rights for individuals receiving care. These documents must conform to the language adopted in regulations at 10 NYCRR Sections 405.7 and 751.9.

New rights relating to gender discrimination, the Surprise Bill Law, and the Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable (CARE) Act were added to the Patients' Bill of Rights for hospitals (DOH Publication No. 1500). The Patients' Bill of Rights for hospitals is also included on page 13 of "Your Rights as a Hospital Patient in New York" (DOH Publication No. 1449). The Patients' Bill of Rights for hospitals makes reference to "Deciding About Health Care – A Guide for Patients and Families" (DOH Publication No. 1503), which is included in "Your Rights as a Hospital Patient in New York" beginning on page 21. The Patients' Bill of Rights for clinics (DOH Publication No. 1515) has also been updated. All of these documents, in English and translated into other languages, as well as frequently asked questions (FAQs), can be accessed at the following link: https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/patients/patient_rights/.

Hospital and clinic operators must post the appropriate Patients' Bill of Rights in patient care areas, in addition to providing a copy to patients. The Patients' Bill of Rights for hospitals shall be posted at readable heights in clearly viewed areas, including the admitting office, patient floors, and waiting areas. Hospital extension clinics should use the Patients' Bill of Rights for hospitals. Only reproductions using the Department's electronic file provided in the link above can be posted and/or distributed to patients visiting your facility. Hospitals are mandated to provide a copy of "Your Rights as a Hospital Patient in New York" upon admission to a hospital. We recommend that all patients receive a copy so that patients are advised of their rights prior to any future hospital admission and can reference important information that is in the booklet.

Should you have additional questions about the above publications after reviewing the FAQs, please contact the Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic & Treatment Centers at (518) 402-1004 or by email hospinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Astin
Director
Division of Hospitals and Diagnostic & Treatment Centers