

Patient's rights and obligations

Patient's rights

1. The patient has the right to considerate professional medical care carried out with empathy by qualified staff.
2. The patient has the right to know the name of the doctor and other health professionals treating them. The patient has the right to request privacy and services commensurate with the institution's capabilities, as well as the opportunity to see family members or friends on a daily basis. Restrictions on this type of (so-called continuous) visits can only be made for compelling reasons.
3. The patient has the right to obtain from his/her doctor the information needed to decide whether to consent to any new diagnostic or therapeutic procedure before starting it. Except in cases of acute danger, he/she shall be duly informed of the possible risks involved in the procedure. If there are more than one alternative treatment, or if the patient requests information about treatment alternatives, he/she has the right to be informed about them.
4. To the extent permitted by law, the patient has the right to refuse treatment and to be informed of the consequences to health of his/her decision.
5. In the course of outpatient and inpatient examination, treatment and care, the patient has the right to have his/her privacy and shame taken into account as much as possible in connection with the treatment. His/her case analysis, consultation and treatment are confidential and should be carried out discreetly. The presence of persons not directly involved in the treatment must be agreed to by the patient.
6. Patients have the right to expect that all reports and records relating to their treatment are treated confidentially. The protection of patient information must also be ensured in cases of computer processing.
7. The patient has the right to expect that the hospital will, to the best of its ability, reasonably accommodate the patient's requests for care appropriate to the nature of their condition. If necessary, the patient may be transferred to another treatment facility or transferred there after being given full justification and information about the necessity of the transfer and other alternatives.
8. Patients have the right to expect that their treatment will be carried out with reasonable continuity. He/she has the right to know in advance which doctors are available to him/her, at what times and in what places. Once discharged, the patient has the right to expect the hospital to determine the process by which his/her doctor will continue to inform him/her of what his/her future care will be.
9. The patient has the right to a detailed and comprehensible explanation if the doctor has decided on a non-standard procedure or experiment. The written informed consent of the patient is a condition for the initiation of non-therapeutic and therapeutic research. The patient may withdraw from the experiment at any time, without giving any reason, after being informed of the possible health consequences of such a decision.
10. A sick person at the end of life has the right to sensitive care by all health professionals who must respect his/her wishes, as long as they do not contravene the laws in force.
11. The patient has the right and duty to know and follow the applicable rules of the health care institution where he/she is being treated (hospital rules). He/she has the right to inspect his account and to demand justification for his items, regardless of who pays the bill.

The Code of Ethics "Patient's Rights" was proposed, formulated and approved by the Central Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and is declared valid as of 25 February 1992.

Patient responsibilities

When providing health services, the patient is obliged to:

- a) comply with the proposed individual treatment procedure, if he/she has consented to the provision of health services,
- b) follow the internal (house) rules of the hospital,
- c) reimburse the provider for the cost of health services not covered or partially covered by public health insurance or other sources that were provided with the provider's consent,
- d) truthfully inform the attending health care professional of their current state of health, including information about infectious and communicable diseases, health services provided by other providers, use of medications, including substance abuse, and other facts relevant to the provision of health care services,
- e) not to consume alcohol or other addictive substances during the hospitalisation and to undergo, at the decision of the attending physician, in justified cases, examinations to prove whether or not he/she is under the influence of alcohol or other addictive substances.

The obligations under points c) and d) shall be incumbent on the patient's legal representative. The patient's legal representative is obliged to create conditions for the patient to fulfil his/her obligations.

The patient, the patient's legal representative, a person designated by the patient, a close person to the patient or a person from a common household shall be obliged to prove their identity with a National ID card if the provider or a health care professional through whom the provider provides health care services to the patient so requests. A person who claims the right to information on the patient's health condition under this Act or any other legal regulation and a person who intends to visit a hospitalised patient and is not a person referred to in the first sentence shall also be obliged to present his/her National ID card. In the case of foreigners, identity shall be proved by a travel document or other identity card. If the health professional has doubts as to whether the person is a close relative, the close relative shall certify this fact by means of an affidavit in which he/she provides their contact details and identity card number; the affidavit shall be part of the medical record. In the event of refusal to provide proof of identity, the health care professional may refuse to provide the requested cooperation or to allow a visit to the hospitalised patient.

The rights and obligations of the legal representative also belong, according to the legislation in force, to the foster parent or other caring person, the statutory body or a person authorised by it of a children's home for children up to 3 years of age, a school establishment for the performance of institutional or protective education or a social services establishment providing residential services, if institutional or protective education has been ordered by a court, or an establishment for children in need of immediate assistance, if the children in question have been entrusted to the care of such an establishment on the basis of a court decision.