

Patients Rights:

Be treated with respect and dignity.

Receive a reasonable explanation of information related to diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of their clinical condition.

Easily understood information regarding the risks, benefits, and costs of diagnostic and treatment alternatives so they can give informed consent or refusal to tests and/or treatments recommended.

Determine which tests and/or treatments to receive or to refuse.

Be advised of potential conflicts of interest regarding their physicians' recommended treatment options.

Select the physician of their choice and change physicians as desired.

Obtain a second opinion from another physician upon request.

Confidentiality of medical records, communications, and information shared with your physician, unless otherwise provided for by law.

Patients Responsibilities:

Be an active partner in their health care by maintaining a healthy lifestyle and avoiding behaviors that are detrimental to health.

Provide accurate information to their physician regarding their personal and health histories that is important to the medical care they receive.

Actively participate in decisions about their health care by asking questions and seeking information about their medical conditions and the treatments recommended.

Cooperate in the mutually agreed upon courses of treatment.

Seek a clear understanding of the costs of the care recommended and make arrangements for the payment of their medical care.

Discuss any financial hardship that could result from agreed upon medical care.

Be knowledgeable about terms, coverage provisions, rules and restrictions of their health care coverage.



Your Personal Physician is Your Best Healthcare Advocate



The Physician-Patient Relationship

The patient and physician should work together as a team to achieve positive results in medical care. As a member of this team, patients need to have an understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

The following guidelines are meant to assist patients in receiving quality care from their personal primary physician.

Choose one physician as your primary care physician.

Maintain a healthy lifestyle.

- Do not use tobacco.
- Use alcohol in moderation, if approved by your physician.
- Maintain a healthy weight.
- Wear seatbelts.
- Avoid using mobile phones while driving.
- Wear hearing protection in noisy environments.
- Protect your skin from harmful sun exposure.
- Exercise regularly.

Regarding visits to physician's office, hospital, or other health care facilities:

- Follow the office or hospital policies affecting patient care and conduct.
- Be considerate of the rights of other patients and office/hospital personnel.
- Provide accurate and complete information pertaining to your health.
- Provide information on previous diagnosis, treatment and allergies.
- Provide the list of any prescriptions, over-the-counter or alternative medication taken.
- Provide information on the use of alcohol, tobacco, or any illicit drugs.

- Provide information on your health insurance.
- Make the co-pay required by the insurance company.
- Consider bringing a companion to accompany you to your appointment.
- Ask questions if you do not understand any instructions you are given.
- Request a second opinion if you feel you need one.
- Keep your scheduled appointment or cancel your appointment in advance if needed.

Regarding continuation of treatment:

- Follow suggestions and advice provided by the physician in the course of your treatment.
- Provide information about any difficulties you have encountered after starting the treatment.
- Inform your physician if you did not understand any part of the medical management plan or medical information.

Regarding advanced care directives:

- Create a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, a document that appoints someone to make health care decisions for you in the event you are incapacitated and unable to make them on your own.
- Create a Living Will, a document that enables you to describe your wishes about discontinuation of life support if you become terminally ill and incapable of expressing your wishes.
- Include your preferences with regard to organ donation on the above documents. For more information about organ donation, please visit: www.lopa.org or www.organdonor.gov.