

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS: When you or your loved one needs medical care, you want the most appropriate and best care available. As a patient in a Texas hospital, you have certain legal rights concerning your medical treatment. This section is designed to help you understand those rights. After reading this section, if you have questions, need further information, or wish to execute an Advanced Directive, contact your physician or nurse.

PATIENT RIGHTS: BSA respects the rights of the patient and recognizes that each patient is an individual with unique healthcare needs. Because of the importance of respecting each patient's dignity, we strive to provide considerate, respectful care, focused on the patient's individual needs.

BSA affirms the patient's right to make informed decisions regarding medical care, including decisions to discontinue treatment, to the extent permitted by law.

BSA shall assist the patient in the exercise of rights and inform the patient of any responsibilities necessary in the exercise of those rights.

Communication: You have the right to connect with family and friends through visitation, and verbal and written communications.

Consent: You have the right to reasonable, informed participation in decisions involving your healthcare. You will be asked by your physician to sign consent forms for medical and surgical procedures. You have the right to prepare a Directive to Physician, Family and Surrogates (Living Will) or a Medical Power of Attorney for Healthcare (see Advanced Directives). With an Advanced Directive, you can direct your physician to provide or to limit life-sustaining treatment, if you develop a terminal medical condition. You will not be discriminated against based on whether or not you complete an Advanced Directive.

Consultation: You have the right to consult with a specialist at your own request and expense.

Identity: You have the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service to you and to know which physician or other practitioner is primarily responsible for your care.

Privacy and Confidentiality: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) mandates regulations that govern privacy, security and electronic transaction standards. The primary purpose of this federal law is to provide standards to facilitate electronic exchange of health information, provide individuals with better access to their health information and standardize this access among states, decrease healthcare fraud and abuse, and most importantly to protect your personal health information.

The staff of BSA has a special concern for confidentiality in the workplace. Safeguarding patients' health information is not only a legal requirement but also an important ethical obligation. As healthcare providers, we are entrusted with clinical information regarding our patients. We recognize that medical and financial records are highly confidential and must be treated with great respect and care by all staff with access to this information. The BSA policy regarding confidentiality of protected healthcare information reflects our strong commitment to protecting the confidentiality of our patients' medical records and clinical information.

Under HIPAA guidelines, we may use your name, your location, your general medical condition and your religious affiliation in our hospital directory. We will disclose this information to members of the clergy and to other persons who ask for you by name. We will provide you with an opportunity to restrict or prohibit some or all disclosures unless emergency circumstances prevent you from objecting.

Refusal of Treatment: You may refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law.

Release of Information: After receiving treatment at BSA, you may request copies of your medical records. Request copies from the BSA Medical Records Department. There is no charge for records requested for continued patient care when they are sent directly to a physician.