

At St. Charles, we are concerned that each patient entrusted to our care is treated with dignity, respect and compassion. We recognize that all patients have basic rights, and we are committed to honoring these rights. Likewise, St. Charles has a right to expect reasonable and responsible behavior from patients, their relatives and friends. The following is a summary of rights and responsibilities that we believe serve as a foundation for a good relationship between patients and staff.

Throughout St. Charles Health System, Inc., it is our policy to care for patients regardless of race, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin or citizenship status, pregnancy, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, ability to pay, disability, or military status. We believe in acknowledging each patient's rights, clarifying patient responsibilities and creating a community of care among our professional health care staff. We consider our patients to be partners in their health care.

## PATIENT RIGHTS

### Emergency treatment

You have the right to emergency treatment to stabilize your condition if presenting to the hospital emergency department.

### Access to care

Individuals shall be given impartial access to treatment or accommodations that are available or medically indicated regardless of race, creed, sex, national origin, cultural or spiritual values, disability or source of payment.

### Providers of care

You have the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service and to know which physician or other practitioner is primarily responsible for your care. Your health care team may include other physicians, resident physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, students and other health care providers.

### Respect and dignity

You have the right to receive considerate, respectful care at all times and under all circumstances, with recognition of personal dignity, diversity, and religious or other spiritual preferences.

### Privacy and confidentiality

You have the right, within the law, to personal and informational privacy, as demonstrated by the following rights:

- If an inpatient refuses to speak with or see anyone not officially connected with the hospital, including visitors or persons officially connected with the hospital but not directly involved in patient care. (An inpatient is a patient who has been admitted to the hospital on an inpatient basis.)
- To wear appropriate personal clothing and religious or other symbolic items, as long as they do not interfere with diagnostic procedures or treatments.
- To be interviewed and examined in surroundings designed to assure reasonable visual and auditory privacy. This includes the right to request to have another person present during certain parts of a physical examination, treatment or procedure performed by a health professional of the opposite sex.
- To expect that any discussion or consultation involving your care will be conducted discreetly and that individuals not directly involved in your care will not be present without permission.
- To have the medical record accessed only by individuals for legitimate business purposes and as permitted under law.
- To expect all communications and other records pertaining to care, including the source of payment, be treated as confidential.

### Safety

Patient safety is our priority. As a patient, you have the right to have care provided in a safe setting. Everyone has a role in making health care safe, including physicians, health care executives, nurses and technicians. You play a vital role in making your care safe by becoming an active, involved and informed member of your health care team. Your perception of risks to safety and suggestions for improvement will be heard and responded to appropriately. Please make your health care providers aware of any concerns you have.

Your suggestions for improvement are always welcome. You may submit suggestions by calling 541-382-4321.

You have the right to be free from seclusion and the use of any restraint that is not medically necessary. These measures are determined by your physician and used only to prevent injury to yourself or others and only when alternative, less restrictive measures have been considered.

## **Pain management**

You have the right to appropriate assessment and management of pain that may include:

- Information about pain management and pain relief measures
- Staff committed to pain prevention and management
- Health professionals who respond quickly to reports of pain
- The knowledge that reports of pain will be addressed
- Care by dedicated pain management specialists, when appropriate

## **Communication**

Each patient admitted to the hospital or in the Emergency Room that needs assistance to effectively communicate with hospital staff, make health care decisions or engage in activities of daily living due to a disability, including but not limited to: a physical, intellectual, behavioral or cognitive impairment; deafness, being hard of hearing or other communication barrier; blindness; Autism or Dementia has a right to:

- Not be discriminated against based on whether or not they have a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST), advanced directive or advance care planning instrument. Treatment may not be conditioned on whether the patient has completed end-of-life care instructions.
- Designate three support persons and have at least one support person be present with the patient at all times in the Emergency Department, and during the patient's stay at the hospital, if necessary, to ensure effective communication and facilitate the patient's care.
- Have one support person designated by the patient to be allowed to be present for any discussion in which the patient is asked to elect hospice care, to sign an advanced directive or other instrument allowing the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining procedure or artificially administered nutrition or hydration, unless the patient requests to have the discussion in the absence of the support person. All support persons must comply with conditions imposed by the hospital to ensure safety, such as:
  - Wearing personal protective equipment provided by the hospital,
  - Following hand washing and other protocols to prevent the potential spread of infections,
  - Being free of any symptoms of viruses or contagious diseases and
  - Submitting to screenings for viruses or contagious diseases upon entering and exiting the hospital.

You have the right to know what patient support services are offered, including whether an interpreter is available if you don't speak English or are hearing impaired. Accommodations can be made for patients with hearing, speech, visual and cognitive impairments by requesting these services at the time the appointment is made.

You have a right to a prompt and reasonable response to questions and requests.

If an inpatient, you have the right to have visitors and to receive phone calls and written communication. You have the right to have a family member, your physician or a representative of your choice notified of your admission to the hospital.

## **Information and education**

You have the right to obtain, from the practitioners responsible for coordinating and providing your care, complete and current information about diagnosis (to the degree known), treatment, alternatives, risks and any known prognosis. This information should be communicated in terms you can understand.

When it is not medically advisable to give you such information, it should be made available to your legal representative.

If an inpatient, you can expect to be provided with information:

- That is necessary for you to safely continue your care when you leave the hospital
- To help promote recovery and maintain or improve function
- To help with disease management or symptom progression
- To help improve outcomes

## **Charges**

You have the right to receive a copy of a reasonably clear and understandable itemized bill and have the charges explained upon request.

You have the right to be given, upon request, full information and necessary counseling on the availability of known financial resources for your care.

If you are eligible for Medicare, you have the right to know, upon request and in advance of treatment, whether St. Charles accepts the Medicare assignment rate.

You have the right to receive, upon request and prior to treatment, a reasonable estimate of charges for your care.

## Consent

You have the right to reasonable, informed participation in decisions involving your health care. To the degree possible, this should be based on a clear and concise explanation of your condition and planned procedures, including potential benefits, the possibilities of any risk of death or serious side effects, problems related to recuperation and probability of success. Before undergoing any procedure, you or your legal representative will voluntarily provide informed consent. You will be informed if medically significant alternatives for care or treatment exist.

You have the right to know who is responsible for authorizing and performing the procedures or treatment. Your participation in clinical trials or in the gathering of data for research purposes is voluntary. You have the right to refuse participation at any time in the process.

When you are incapacitated or unable to speak for yourself, in the absence of Advance Directives, Oregon state law provides that a proxy may speak for you. The following may serve as a proxy in order of authority: a court-approved surrogate, a spouse, an adult child or majority of adult children, a parent, an adult sibling or majority of adult siblings, an adult relative who has exhibited special care and concern or a close friend.

## Advance directive

An advance directive ensures that your wishes, in written or oral form, are carried out. You have a right to receive information about Advance Directive.

When your advance directives are presented in a valid format to St. Charles at the time of admission and to your health care provider (physician), St. Charles will honor your wishes and retain them in your medical record when appropriate.

You are responsible for informing St. Charles and your health care providers if you create, modify or revoke an advance directive. An advance directive is not required to receive treatment and you may waive your right to make one.

For more information or assistance in creating an advance directive, contact your attorney or call Legal Services at 541-706-4463.

## Refusing treatment

You or your legal representative may refuse treatment to the extent permitted by law. When refusal of treatment by you or your legal representative prevents the provision of appropriate care in accordance with professional standards, our relationship with you may be terminated upon reasonable notice.

## Transfer and continuity of care

If an inpatient, you may not be transferred to another

facility or organization unless you have received a complete explanation of the need for the transfer, been provided with options and been provided with the alternatives to such a transfer and the transfer is acceptable to the other facility or organization. You have the right to be informed by the practitioner responsible for your care, or a delegate, of any continuing health care requirements following discharge.

## PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### Respect and consideration

You are responsible for being considerate of the rights of other patients and clinic staff. This includes not smoking and controlling noise and visitors. You are responsible for being respectful of the property of others and of the hospital/clinic. You understand that any abusive or disrespectful behavior could result in your dismissal from St. Charles care.

### Safety

You play a vital role in making your care safe by becoming an active, involved and informed member of your health care team. You are responsible to:

- Work with your doctor, nurse and other health care providers to make decisions about your care.
- Notify your non-St. Charles primary care physician of changes to your plan of care.
- Ask a family member or friend to be part of the health care team if you are very sick.
- Ask questions until you understand the answers (about treatments, procedures, medications, etc.).
- Learn about the possible risks of refusing a test or procedure.
- Ask why a test or treatment is needed, how it can help you and if you would be better off without it. Know that more is not always better.
- Make sure that you, your doctor and your surgeon all agree and are clear on exactly what will be done if you are having surgery.
- Ask your doctor or health care providers to explain the recommended or prescribed treatment plan.
- Ask for information about your medicines, if any, in terms you can understand. You need to know:
  - > What it is for
  - > How to take it
  - > How long to take it
  - > What to do if there are side effects
  - > If it is safe to take with other medicines, foods and supplements



- > What food, drink, activities to avoid
- > Where to store it

## Rules and regulations

You are responsible for following rules and regulations that apply to patients at St. Charles, including those described in the Patient's Guide, outlined in this section and those posted on campus.

## Pain management

You are responsible for:

- Working with the physician and nurse to develop a pain-management plan
- Asking the physician or nurse what to expect of pain and pain management
- Helping the physician and nurse assess your pain
- Discussing pain relief options with physicians and nurses
- Telling the physician or nurse about any concerns you have about taking pain medication
- Asking for pain relief when pain first begins
- Complying with physician orders regarding medication
- Telling the physician or nurse if and when pain is not relieved

## Providing information

As a patient, you are an integral part of the health care team. Therefore, you are responsible for:

- Participating in your care and health care decisions
- Providing, to the best of your knowledge, accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, allergies and other matters relating to your health
- Reporting unexpected changes in your condition to the responsible practitioner
- Communicating whether you clearly understand your plan of care and what is expected of you

## Education

You are expected to participate in the teaching/learning process so that you will acquire and understand the skills and behaviors that promote recovery, maintain or improve function, or manage disease or symptom progression.

## Charges

You are responsible for assuring that your financial obligations for health care received are fulfilled as promptly as possible. Financial assistance is available. To see if you are eligible

call (541) 706-6707 to speak with a financial counselor about options that may be available.

## Compliance

You are responsible for following the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner primarily responsible for your care. This may include following the instructions of nurses and staff as they carry out your plan of care, implement the responsible practitioner's orders and enforce applicable hospital/clinic rules and regulations.

You are responsible for keeping appointments and for notifying St. Charles when you are unable to do so.

You are responsible for your actions if you refuse treatment or do not follow the practitioner's instructions.

## Personal property

St. Charles is not responsible for cash, valuables and personal items you bring to the hospital/clinic. This includes eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, canes, prostheses, wheelchairs and other easily misplaced items. If you are an inpatient, please leave all jewelry and valuables at home or send them home with family members or a person whom you trust to properly secure them. If necessary and upon request, hospital staff will contact Security for you to store smaller valuables in the hospital safe.

## Your concerns.

If you or your legal representative has a concern about any aspect of your care at St. Charles, you are urged to let us know so we can resolve it promptly. This reporting will in no way negatively impact future care. We consider your comments opportunities for us to improve care and service. To address concerns, you may:

- Speak to your physician or nurse (the most direct option)
- Speak to the supervisor of the department where the concern arose.
- Contact the Patient Experience and Advocacy hotline at 541-706-6316

If an inpatient, you also may talk with the team leader, nurse manager, patient care director, administrator or house supervisor on call. The operator can connect you with any of these individuals.

If you would like to make a complaint to a state or an outside agency, you may contact the following:

Joint Commission  
One Renaissance Blvd.  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181  
(800) 994-6610

The Oregon Hospital Association's Health Facility Licensing & Certification (HFLC) is responsible for processing complaints for certain types of health care facilities and agencies.

Health Facility Licensing and Certification Program \*CONFIDENTIAL\*

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 465  
Portland, OR 97232  
E-MAIL: mailbox.hclc@state.or.us  
FAX: (971) 673-0556

KEPRO is responsible for processing Medicare discharge appeals. If you have Medicare, you have the right to appeal a discharge if you do not agree with the decision that skilled services will be stopped.

KEPRO  
Appeal Helpline  
(888)-305-6759  
TTY for all areas:  
(855)-843-4776

EMS and Trauma Systems are responsible for processing complaints against EMS providers and Trauma System designations.

Oregon Health Authority, EMS and Trauma Systems Professional Standards Enforcement

PO Box 14450  
Portland, OR 97293  
E-MAIL: [ems.psu@state.or.us](mailto:ems.psu@state.or.us)  
FAX: (971) 673-0555