SCA Health

Patient Rights and Responsibilities



SCA Health observes and respects a patient's rights and responsibilities without regard to age, race, color, sex, gender identity, national origin, religion, culture, physical or mental disability, personal values or belief systems.

You have the right to:

- Considerate, respectful and dignified care and respect for personal values, beliefs and preferences.
- Access to treatment without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, creed/religion, sex, gender identity, age, mental disability, or physical disability. Any treatment determinations based on a person's physical status or diagnosis will be made on the basis of medical evidence and treatment capability.
- Respect of personal privacy.
- Receive care in a safe and secure environment.
- Know what facility rules and regulations apply to your conduct as a patient.
- Exercise your rights without being subjected to discrimination or reprisal.
- Know the identity of persons providing care, treatment or services and, upon request, be informed of the credentials of healthcare providers and, if applicable, the lack of malpractice coverage.
- Expect the facility to disclose, when applicable, physician financial interests or ownership in the facility.
- Patients and staff are informed of the patient's right to change providers if other qualified providers are available.
- Receive information about health status, diagnosis, the expected prognosis and expected outcomes of care, in terms that can be understood, before a treatment or a procedure is performed.
- Receive information about unanticipated outcomes of care.
- Receive information from the physician about any proposed treatment or procedure as needed in order to give or withhold informed consent.
- Participate in decisions about the care, treatment or services planned and to refuse care, treatment or services, in accordance with law and regulation.
- Be informed, or when appropriate, your representative be informed (as allowed under state law) of your rights in advance of furnishing or discontinuing patient care whenever possible.
- Receive information in a manner tailored to your level of understanding, including provision of interpretative assistance or assistive devices.
- Have family be involved in care, treatment, or services decisions to the extent permitted by you or your surrogate decision maker, in accordance with laws and regulations.
- Appropriate assessment and management of pain, information about pain, pain relief measures and participation in pain management decisions.
- Give or withhold informed consent to produce or use recordings, film, or other images for purposes other than care, and to request cessation of production of the recordings, films or other images at any time.
- Be informed of and permit or refuse any human experimentation or other research/educational projects affecting care or treatment.
- Confidentiality of all information pertaining to care and stay in the facility, including medical records and, except as required by law, the right to approve or refuse the release of your medical records.
- Access to and/or copies of your medical records within a reasonable time frame and the ability to request amendments to your medical records.
- Obtain information on disclosures of health information within a reasonable time frame.
- Have an advance directive, such as a living will or durable power of attorney for healthcare, and be informed as to the facility's policy regarding advance directives/living will. Expect the facility to provide the state's official advance directive form if requested and where applicable.
- Obtain information concerning fees for services rendered and the facility's payment policies.
- Be free from restraints of any form that are not medically necessary or are used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience or retaliation by staff.
- Be free from all forms of abuse or harassment.
- Access to language assistance service, free of charge, by a qualified interpreter for individuals with limited English proficiency or individuals with a disability.
- Expect the facility to establish a process for prompt resolution of patients' grievances and to inform each patient whom to contact to file a grievance. Grievances/complaints and suggestions regarding treatment or care that is (or fails to be) furnished may be expressed at any time. Grievances may be lodged with the state agency directly using the contact information provided below.
- Expect emergency procedures to be implemented without unnecessary delay.

If a patient is adjudged incompetent under applicable State laws by a court of proper jurisdiction, the rights of the patient will be exercised by the person appointed under State law to act on the patient's behalf.

If a state court has not adjudged a patient incompetent, any legal representative or surrogate designated by the patient in accordance with State law may exercise the patient's rights to the extent allowed by State law.

You are responsible for:

- Patients are informed of the responsibility to behave respectfully toward all health care professionals and staff, as well as other patients and visitors.
- Respecting the property of others and the facility.
- Identifying any patient safety concerns.
- Observing prescribed rules of the facility during your stay and treatment.
- Providing a responsible adult to transport you home from the facility and remain with you for 24 hours if required by your provider.
- Reporting whether you clearly understand the planned course of treatment and what is expected of you and asking questions when you do not understand your care, treatment, or service or what you are expected to do.
- Keeping appointments and, when unable to do so for any reason, notifying the facility and physician.
- Providing caregivers with the most accurate and complete information regarding present complaints, past illnesses and hospitalizations, medications—including over-the-counter products and dietary supplements, and any allergies or sensitivities, unexpected changes in your condition or any other patient health matters.
- Promptly fulfilling your financial obligations to the facility, including charges not covered by insurance.
- Payment to facility for copies of the medical records you may request.
- Informing your providers about any living will, medical power of attorney, or other advance directive that could affect your care.

You may contact the following entities to express any concerns, complaints or grievances you may have:

FACILITY	CEO 4425 Paulsen Street, Building B, 2nd Floor, Savannah, GA 31405 912-777-3060
STATE AGENCY	Georgia Department of Community Health Attn: Complaints Dept., Suite 3100 2 Peachtree Street, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142 Phone: 404-657-5726 or 1-800-878-6442 Fax: 404-657-5153
MEDICARE	Office of the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman: https://www.cms.gov/center/special-topic/ombudsman/medicare-beneficiary-ombudsman-home
ACCREDITING ENTITY	AAAHC (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care) 3 Parkway North, Suite 201 Deerfield, IL 60015 847-853-6060 www.aaahc.org
OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS	US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building Washington D.C. 20201 (800) 368-1019; (800) 537-7697 (TDD) Internet address: https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/filing-a-complaint/index.html

To care for our patients, serve our physicians, and improve healthcare in America

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