

Patient Safety

Help Us Keep You Safe in Our Hospital

Be Involved in Your Health Care.

Be an active member of your health care team. That means taking part in every decision about your health care. Research shows that patients who are more involved with their care tend to get better results.

Speak Up.

Speak up if you have questions or concerns. You have a right to question anyone who is involved in your care.

Know Who's In Charge.

Make sure that someone, such as your personal doctor or a hospitalist, is in charge of your care. This is especially important if you have many health problems.

Arrange for an Advocate.

Have a friend or family member with you who can help you get things done and speak up for you if you can't. Even if you think you don't need help now, you might need it later.

Describe All Medications.

Make sure your doctors know about all the medications you are already taking. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements such as vitamins and herbs. Also, make sure that your doctors know about any allergies and adverse reactions you have had.

Share All Important Information.

Make sure that all health professionals involved in your care have important health information about you. Do not assume that everyone knows everything they need to.

Discuss Surgery Ahead of Time.

If you are having surgery, make sure that you, your doctor, and your surgeon all agree and are clear on exactly what will be done.

Hand Washing is Important.

Hand washing is an important way to prevent the spread of infections in hospitals. Ask all health care workers who have direct contact with you whether they have washed their hands.

Ask About Your Tests and Treatments.

Know that "more" is not always better. It is a good idea to find out why a test or treatment is needed and how it can help you. If you have a test, don't assume no news is good news. Ask about the results.

Be Clear on Discharge Instructions.

When you are being discharged, ask your doctor to explain the treatment plan you will use at home. This includes learning about your medications and finding out about when you can get back to your regular activities.

This information was adapted from *20 Tips To Help Prevent Medical Errors*, developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (www.ahrq.gov/qual/errorsix.htm).

Patient Safety Is EVERYONE's Responsibility!

**This hospital voluntarily participates in the
CMS Rural Organizational Safety Culture Change Project.**

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