

Patient Safety and You

You play an important role in your healthcare. Being active in the healthcare process can lead to better outcomes in your treatment.

As a patient you have rights and responsibilities at every point in the medical care process.

At the Appointment

Rights:

- To be an active participant in discussions
- To have understandable, legible instructions and prescriptions
- To have an explanation of why a particular course of treatment is recommended

Responsibilities:

- To be open and honest about symptoms, drugs you might be taking, medical history
- To voice concerns
- To speak up if you don't understand
- To check back on test results

At the Pharmacy

Rights:

- To receive the correct prescription
- To receive verbal and written information about how to use the drug
- To have information on drug interactions, side effects, and what to do about them

Responsibilities:

- To check the prescription to make sure it is what your doctor ordered
- To remind pharmacist about other drugs or allergies
- To ask questions if necessary

At Home

Right:

- To research your condition using library or Internet tools, etc.

Responsibilities:

- To know the validity of the source of health information
- To verify health information with your physician



American College
of Physicians

American Society
of Internal Medicine