

Hospice Patient's Rights

National Hospice and Palliative Care
Organization



Caring Connections
a program of the
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

“A hospice patient has the right to be informed of his or her rights, and the hospice must protect and encourage using these rights.”

Hospice Medicare Conditions of Participation (CFR 418.52, Subpart C, 418.52)

What are Hospice Patient Rights?

A list of rights guaranteed to all hospice patients including what a hospice must provide to a person who is receiving hospice care.

Where can I find Hospice Patient Rights?

The Medicare Conditions of Participation are issued as regulations set by the federal government agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Hospices must follow these regulations, which include a section on patient rights.

What do Hospice Patient Rights include?

Each hospice patient has the right to:

- Be treated with respect.
- Receive quality end-of-life care.
- Receive spoken and written notice of his or her rights and responsibilities in a manner they understand during the assessment meeting with hospice staff.
- Receive information on advance directives including a living will and healthcare surrogate.
- Voice concerns and not be discriminated against for doing so.
- Receive pain management and symptom control.
- Be involved in developing his or her hospice plan of care.
- Refuse care or treatment.
- Choose his or her attending physician.
- Have a confidential medical record.
- Be free from mistreatment, neglect, or verbal, mental, sexual, and physical abuse.
- Receive information about the services covered under the Hospice Benefit.
- Receive information about the services that the hospice will provide and any limitations on those services.

What do Hospice Patient Rights mean to hospice providers?

- The hospice must inform each patient of his/her rights during the admission verbally and in writing.
- The hospice must talk about and provide written information about the organization's policies on advance directives, including a description of the State law.
- The hospice must prove that they have reviewed the hospice patient's rights by asking for the patient or caregiver's signature.

If you have questions about your rights, please ask your hospice team, call the hospice's compliance officer or call the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization's toll-free HelpLine at 800-658-8898.

I have received a copy of the notice of patient rights and responsibilities.

SIGNATURE OF PATIENT OR REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

For more information, Contact Caring Connections: HelpLine 800.658.8898 • Multilingual Line 877.658.8896
www.caringinfo.org • caringinfo@nhpco.org