



## **PATIENT'S BILL OF RIGHTS**

New Jersey Administrative Code § 8:43A-16.2 Rights of each patient.

Each patient receiving services in an ambulatory care facility shall have the following rights:

- i. To be informed of these rights, as evidenced by the patient's written acknowledgement, or by documentation by staff in the medical record, that the patient was offered a written copy of these rights and given a written or verbal explanation of these rights, in terms the patient could understand. The facility shall have a means to notify patients of any rules and regulations it has adopted governing patient conduct in the facility;
- ii. To be informed of services available in the facility, of the names and professional status of the personnel providing and/or responsible for the patient's care, and of fees and related charges, including the payment, fee, deposit, and refund policy of the facility and any charges for services not covered by sources of third-party payment or not covered by the facility's basic rate;
- iii. To be informed if the facility has authorized other health care and educational institutions to participate in the patient's treatment. The patient also shall have a right to know the identity and function of these institutions, and to refuse to allow their participation in the patient's treatment;
- iv. To receive from the patient's physician(s) or clinical practitioner(s), in terms that the patient understands, an explanation of his or her complete medical/health condition or diagnosis, recommended treatment, treatment options, including the option of no treatment, risk(s) of treatment, and expected result(s). If this information would be detrimental to the patient's health, or if the patient is not capable of understanding the information, the explanation shall be provided to the patient's next of kin or guardian. This release of information to the next of kin or guardian, along with the reason for not informing the patient directly, shall be documented in the patient's medical record;
- v. To participate in the planning of the patient's care and treatment, and to refuse medication and treatment. Such refusal shall be documented in the patient's medical record;
- vi. To be included in experimental research only when the patient gives informed, written consent to such participation, or when a guardian gives such consent for an incompetent patient in accordance with law, rule and regulation. The patient may refuse to participate in experimental research, including the investigation of new drugs and medical devices;
- vii. To voice grievances or recommend changes in policies and services to facility personnel, the governing authority, and/or outside representatives of the patient's choice either individually or as a group, and free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal;
- viii. To be free from mental and physical abuse, free from exploitation, and free from use of restraints unless they are authorized by a physician for a limited period of time to protect the patient or others from injury. Drugs and other medications shall not be used for discipline of patients or for convenience of facility personnel;
- ix. To confidential treatment of information about the patient.
  - a. Information in the patient's medical record shall not be released to anyone outside the facility without the patient's approval, unless another health care facility to which the patient was transferred requires the information, or unless the release of the information is required and permitted by law, a third-party payment contract, or a peer review, or unless the information is needed by the Department for statutorily-authorized purposes.
  - b. The facility may release data about the patient for studies containing aggregated statistics when the patient's identity is masked;
- x. To be treated with courtesy, consideration, respect, and recognition of the patient's dignity, individuality, and right to privacy, including, but not limited to, auditory and visual privacy. The patient's privacy shall also be respected when facility personnel are discussing the patient;
- xi. To not be required to perform work for the facility unless the work is part of the patient's treatment and is performed voluntarily by the patient. Such work shall be in accordance with local, State, and Federal laws and rules;
- xii. To exercise civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions. No religious beliefs or practices, or any attendance at religious services, shall be imposed upon any patient;
- xiii. To not be discriminated against because of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, or ability to pay, or deprived of any constitutional, civil, and/or legal rights solely because of receiving services from the facility; and
- xiv. To expect and receive appropriate assessment, management and treatment of pain as an integral component of that person's care in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:43E-6.

### **Patient Complaint or Grievance**

To report a complaint or grievance you can contact the *Administrator* by phone at (908) 393-8360 or mail at:

Somerset Ambulatory Surgical Center  
1 Highway 206 North  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Complaints and grievances may also be filed through:  
New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of Health Facilities Evaluation and Licensing

PO Box 367  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0367  
Phone: 800-792-9770

**Or**

State of New Jersey, CMS Regional Office  
DHHS/CMS/DMSO, CLIA Program  
26 Federal Plaza Room 37-130  
New York, NY 10278  
Phone: 212 616-2450

**Or**

AAAHC  
5250 Old Orchard Road  
Suite 200  
Skokie, Illinois 60077  
Phone: 847 853-6060

Medicare beneficiaries may receive information regarding their options under Medicare and their rights and protections by visiting the website for the Office of the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman. <http://www.medicare.gov/claims-and-appeals/medicare-rights/get-help/ombudsman.html>

**or** by calling: 800 624-4262



1 Highway 206 North  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876  
908-393-8360

## **PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**As a patient at *Somerset Ambulatory Surgical Center* the patient has the following responsibilities:**

- i. Providing caregivers, to the best of their knowledge, accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalization, medications, and other matters relating to their health. Patients and their families must report perceived risks in unexpected changes in their condition.
- ii. Patients must ask questions when they do not understand their care, treatment, and service or what they are expected to do.
- iii. Patients must follow the care, treatment and service plan developed. They should express any concerns about their ability to follow the proposed care plan or course of care, treatment and services.
- iv. Be considerate of other patients and personnel and for assisting in the control of noise, eating, and other distractions.
- v. Patients and their families must follow the organization's rules and regulations during his/her stay and treatment.
- vi. Patients and their families must be considerate of the organization's staff and property, as well as other patients and their property.
- vii. Patients should promptly meet any financial obligations to the facility.
- viii. Patients should identify any patient safety concerns.
- ix. For after hour care for non-emergencies; the patients should contact their physician's office. For emergent after hour care the patient should call 911 and go to the nearest emergency room.
- x. Patients should provide a responsible adult (family member or friend) to transport him/her home from the facility and remain with him/her.
- xi. Patients should inform his/her provider about a living will, medical power of attorney, or other directive that could affect his/her provider.

### **Patient Suggestions**

To make a suggestion you can contact the Administrator by phone at 908-393-8360  
or mail at:

Somerset Ambulatory Surgical Center  
1 Highway 206 North  
Somerville, New Jersey 08876