



## PATIENT'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### PERSONAL DIGNITY AND PRIVACY

#### *You have the right*

- to considerate, respectful service and care, with full recognition of your personal dignity and individuality, without regard to gender, age, ethnicity, income level, sexual preference, gender identity, educational background, or spiritual philosophy.
- to privacy and the assurance of confidentiality when receiving care, to refuse visits of persons not directly involved in your care, and to choose who will receive information about your condition.
- to be dressed as you wish and not be disrobed or uncovered any longer than is necessary for your care.
- to request the presence of a person of your choice during interactions with health-care professionals.
- to experience all emotions, including anger, sadness, confusion, guilt, depression, impatience, fear, and loss.
- to have your end of life choices respected by health-care professionals, including continuing or discontinuing treatment or requesting medications to self-administer for a hastened death.
- to die with your loved ones present and to request the presence of a health-care professional, if desired.

#### *You have the responsibility*

- to treat your caregivers with respect and to follow their directions when consistent with your wishes.
- to make certain that your right to privacy and confidentiality is understood by all parties involved in your care, and to communicate to your health-care providers when you feel that these rights are in jeopardy.

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## INFORMED PARTICIPATION

### *You have the right*

- to honest, accurate, and understandable information about your current diagnosis and prognosis; the recommended treatment and its foreseeable effects; the probability of success; and the possible risks of complications and side effects, including the probability of their occurrence.
- to be informed about alternative forms of treatment, including hospice and home care, and to participate in all decisions affecting your care.
- to request a second opinion.
- to access palliative care when curative care is no longer indicated or desired, including pain medication in whatever dosage or schedule you deem necessary to alleviate pain and suffering, even at the risk of hastening death.
- to make your own decisions regarding what constitutes human dignity, as long as you are mentally competent and have basic decision-making capacity. You will be considered mentally competent if you can understand the nature of your condition, the treatment alternatives available, the likely outcomes of treatment versus nontreatment, and can accept responsibility for your decisions.
- to access information in your medical record and know if your health-care providers believe that your condition or course of disease will result in death. This information may be needed to make informed decisions about your future.
- to forgo eating and drinking naturally in order to permit or expedite the natural dying process.

### *You have the responsibility*

- to make Advance Directives and then communicate your wishes to your medical providers, family, and other loved ones. (For information about Advance Directives, see or request our Advance Directives information sheet.)

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## COMPETENT CARE

### *You have the right*

- to competent medical, nursing, and social services care.
- to choose your personal physician and to change your physician at any time.
- to know who is responsible for coordinating and supervising your care and to know how to contact that person.
- to be informed about who owns and controls the agency or facility involved in your care and the right to referral to institutions, facilities, or practitioners who can provide the care you need.

### *You have the responsibility*

- to choose a primary care physician who is able and willing to carry out your wishes.
- to communicate your end of life wishes to family, friends, and health-care providers.

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