NIH Clinical Center Patient Education Materials

Patients' Bill of Rights

The Clinical Center Patients' Bill of Rights protects you when you volunteer to participate in clinical research as a patient or as a healthy subject. The Clinical Center provides compassionate, professional care in a unique state-of-the-art facility. You, the research participant, make it possible for us to observe health and disease and to measure response to treatment.

Your rights and safety are protected by procedures that provide an awareness of your medical choices, of any risks or benefits, and of possible consequences of participating in research. The list summarizes your rights as a research participant at the Clinical Center.

The complete list of the Clinical Center Patient Bill of Rights can be found in the Clinical Center Patient Handbook at https://go.nih.gov/billofr.

This information is prepared specifically for persons taking part in clinical research at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and may not apply to patients elsewhere. If you have questions about the information presented here, talk to a member of your health care team.

Products/resources named serve as examples and do not imply endorsement by NIH. The fact that a certain product/resource is not named does not imply that such product/resource is unsatisfactory.

Reviewed by NIH CC, Office of Patient Safety and Clinical Quality, 2025

NIH Clinical Center

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:

- TO safe, considerate and respectful care, provided in a manner
- TO safe, considerate and respectful care, provided in a manner consistent with your beliefs;
- TO expect that all communications and records pertaining to your care will be treated as confidential to the extent permitted by law;
- TO know the physician responsible for coordinating your care at the Clinical Center;
- TO receive complete information about diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis from the physician, in terms that are easily understood;
- TO receive information necessary for you to give informed consent for any procedure or treatment, including a description of the procedure or treatment, any potential risks or benefits, the probable duration of any incapacitation, and any alternatives;
- TO receive routine services when hospitalized at the Clinical Center in connection with your protocol;
- TO know in advance what appointment times and physicians are available and where to go for all aspects of care provided by the Clinical Center;
- TO receive appropriate assessment for and relief of pain;
- TO refuse to participate in research, to refuse treatment, and to be informed of the medical consequences of these actions;
- TO be transferred to another facility when your participation in the Clinical Center study is completed;
- TO expect that a medical summary from the Clinical Center will be sent to your referring physician;
- TO designate additional physicians or organizations at any time to receive medical updates.