As a patient in a hospital in New York State, the LAW gives you the RIGHT to:

1. **Understand and use these rights.** If for any reason you do not understand or you need help, the hospital **MUST** help you, including getting an interpreter.

2. **Treatment without discrimination** because of your race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or how you are paying.

3. **Considerate and respectful care** in a clean and safe environment free of unnecessary restraints.

4. **Emergency care** if you need it.

5. **Be told the name and job of the doctor** who will be in charge of your care in the hospital.

6. **Know the names, job titles, and work done by any hospital staff** who takes care of you and refuse to have them treat, examine or observe you.

7. **A “no smoking” room.**

8. **Complete information about your illness** including diagnosis, treatment, how much pain you may have, and prognosis (how successful your treatment is expected to be).

9. **Be told about the risks and benefits of any treatment or procedure,** so that you can give your “informed” consent before you have any procedure or treatment.

10. **Receive all information you need about a “do not resuscitate order” (DNR)** which means “do not bring back to life” before giving consent. You also have the right to choose a person to give consent for you if you are too ill to do it yourself.

11. **Refuse treatment** and be told what effect refusing may have on your health.

12. **Refuse to take part in research.** You have the right to a full explanation about the research to help you decide that you do or do not choose to participate.

13. **Privacy** while in the hospital and confidentiality for all information and records about your care.

14. **Participate in all decisions about your treatment and discharge** from the hospital. The hospital must provide you with a written discharge plan and written description of how you can appeal if you feel that it is too soon for you to leave the hospital.

15. **Look at your medical record without paying anything.** Be given a copy of your medical record to take home, and be charged a reasonable fee for it. You cannot be denied a copy because you cannot afford to pay for it.

16. **Receive an itemized bill and explanation of all charges.**

17. **Complain about your care** without fear that complaining will change how you are cared for, and have the hospital respond to you and, if you ask, give you a written response. If you are not satisfied with the hospital’s response, you can complain to the New York State Health Department by calling 1-800-804-5447.

18. **Authorize who can visit you,** if you are only allowed to have a few visitors at a time.

19. **Say that you do or do not wish to give parts of your body as an anatomical gift.** You may document your wishes in your health care proxy or on a donor card, available from the hospital.