PATIENT RIGHTS

As a patient, it is important to be aware of your rights and responsibilities. You have the right to ask questions and receive answers that you understand; know your options; understand the risks; receive an estimated cost; and say “yes”, “no”, or “I need to think about it”. Getting the right answers is only a matter of asking the right questions, so here are some questions that can help you take charge of your medical care.

Do I really need surgery?
- What will happen if I don’t have surgery?
- How often is this surgery performed for my condition?
- How often do you perform this surgery?
- How often does this surgery cure the problem for good?
- Are there likely to be any side effects from the surgery?

Do I need to be hospitalized?
- Can this procedure be done on an outpatient basis?
- Is this hospital the best place to have this surgery?
- What is the least amount of time I need to spend in the hospital?
- Can I recover at home?

How can I prevent this in the future?
- What exactly caused this problem?
- Is it likely to happen again?
- What can I do to prevent it?
- How can I learn more about this condition?
- Is there a special diet I can follow to prevent this?

Do I need these drugs?
- Is there a food or drink that interferes with this drug?
- Will I have any side effects from taking this drug?
- Under what conditions should I stop taking this medication?
- Is this drug on my formulary? If not, is there another brand name or generic form?

Do I need these tests?
- What will happen if I don’t have this test?
- How will you use the test results?
- Are there any risks associated with the test?

Do I understand what’s happening to me?
- What exactly does that mean?
- Do you have any written material that you could give me?