

## Patient's Rights and Responsibilities and Notification of Physician Ownership

EVERY PATIENT HAS THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AND MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING HIS/HER CARE. THE FACILITY AND MEDICAL STAFF HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING PATIENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH ARE COMMUNICATED TO EACH PATIENT OR THE PATIENT'S REPRESENTATIVE/SURROGATE PRIOR TO THE PROCEDURE/SURGERY.

### **PATIENT'S RIGHTS:**

- To receive treatment without discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or source of payment.
- To receive considerate, respectful, and dignified care.
- To be provided privacy and security during the delivery of patient care service.
- To receive information from his/her physician about his/her illness, his/her course of treatment and his/her prospects for recovery in terms that he/she can understand.
- To receive as much information about any proposed treatment or procedures as he/she may need in order to give informed consent prior to the start of any procedure or treatment.
- When it is medically inadvisable to give such information to a patient, the information is provided to a person designated by the patient, or to a legally authorized person.
- To make decisions regarding health care that is recommended by the physician. Accordingly, the patient may accept or refuse any recommended medical treatment. If treatment is refused, the patient has the right to be told what effect this may have on their health, and the reason shall be reported to the physician and documented in the medical record.
- Full consideration of privacy concerning his/her medical care. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment are confidential and shall be conducted discreetly.
- Confidential treatment of all communications and records pertaining to his/her care and his/her stay in the facility. His/her written permission shall be obtained before his/her medical records can be made available to anyone not directly concerned with his/her care. The facility has established policies to govern access and duplication of patient records.
- To have care delivered in a safe environment, free from all forms of abuse, neglect, harassment, or reprisal.
- Reasonable continuity of care and to know in advance the time and location of appointment, as well as the physician providing the care.
- To be informed of their right to change providers if other qualified providers are available.
- Be informed by his/her physician or a delegate of his/her physician of the continuing health care requirements following his/her discharge from the facility.
- To know the identity and professional status of individuals providing services to them, and to know the name of the physician who is primarily responsible for coordination of his/her care.
- To know which facility rules and policies apply to his/her conduct while a patient.
- To have all patients' rights apply to the person who may have legal responsibility to make decisions regarding medical care on behalf of the patient. All personnel shall observe these patients' rights.
- To be informed of any research or experimental treatment or drugs and to refuse participation without compromise to the patient's care. The patient's written consent for participation in research shall be obtained and retained in his/ her patient record.
- To examine and receive an explanation of his/her bill regardless of source of payment.
- To appropriate assessment and management of pain.
- To be advised if the physician providing care has a financial interest in the surgery center.
- Regarding care of the pediatric patient, to be provided supportive and nurturing care which meets the emotional and physiological needs of the child and to support participation of the caregiver in decisions affecting medical treatment.
- Be advised as to the absence of malpractice coverage.

### **PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- To provide complete and accurate information to the best of their ability about their health, any medications, including over-the-counter products and dietary supplements and any allergies or sensitivities.
- To follow the treatment plan prescribed by their provider, including pre-operative and discharge instructions.
- To provide a responsible adult to transport them home from the facility and remain with them for 24 hours, if required by their provider.
- To inform their provider about any living will, medical power of attorney, or other advance healthcare directive in effect.
- To accept personal financial responsibility for any charges not covered by their insurance.
- To be respectful of all healthcare professionals and staff, as well as other patients.
- The patient and family are responsible for asking questions when they do not understand what they have been told about the patient's care.
- The patient is responsible for keeping appointments and notifying the physician or facility when unable to do so.
- The patient and/or patient representative is responsible for disposition of patient valuables.
- In the case of pediatric patients, a parent or guardian is responsible to remain in the facility for the duration of the patient's stay in the facility. The parent or legal guardian is responsible for participating in decision making regarding the patient's care.
- \* The patient is responsible for his/her actions should he/she refuse treatment or not follow the physician's orders.
- \* The patient is responsible for being considerate of the rights of other patients, visitors, and facility personnel.

### **If you need an interpreter:**

If you need an interpreter, **please let us know** and one will be provided for you. If you have someone who can translate confidential, medical, and financial information for you, please make arrangements to have them accompany you on the day of your procedure.

## Rights and Respect for Property and Person Privacy and Safety

### *The patient has the right to:*

- Exercise his or her rights without being subjected to discrimination or reprisal.
- Voice a grievance regarding treatment or care that is, or fails to be, furnished.
- Be free from all forms of abuse or harassment
- Be fully informed about a treatment or procedure and the expected outcome before it is performed.
- Personal privacy
- Receive care in a safe setting
- Confidentiality of personal medical information.

### Advance Directives

*An "Advance Directive" is a general term that refers to your instructions about your medical care in the event you become unable to voice these instructions yourself. Each state regulates advance directives differently. STATE laws regarding Advanced Directives are found in South Carolina Statutes §44-77-10-160. In the State of South Carolina and federal law give all competent adults, 18 years or older, the right to make their own health care decisions, including the right to decide what medical care or treatment to accept, reject or discontinue. If certain treatments are not wanted, they have the right to tell their doctor, either orally or in writing, they do not want them. If they want to refuse treatment, but they do not have someone to name as their agent, you can sign a living will.*

*You have the right to informed decision making regarding your care, including information regarding Advance Directives and this facility's policy on Advance Directives. Applicable state forms will also be provided upon request. A member of our staff will be discussing Advance Directives with the patient (and/or patient's representative or surrogate) prior to the procedure being performed.*

Columbia Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Center respects the right of patients to make informed decisions regarding their care. The Center has adopted the position that an ambulatory surgery center setting is not the most appropriate setting for end-of-life decisions. Therefore, it is the policy of this surgery center that in the absence of an applicable properly executed Advance Directive, if there is deterioration in the patient's condition during treatment at the surgery center, the personnel at the center will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures. The patient will be transferred to an acute care hospital, where further treatment decisions will be made.

If the patient has Advance Directives which have been provided to the surgery center that impact resuscitative measures being taken, we will discuss the treatment plan with the patient and his/her physician to determine the appropriate course of action to be taken regarding the patient's care.

**Complaints/Grievances:** If you have a problem or complaint, please speak to one of our staff to address your concern. If necessary, your problem will be advanced to center management for resolution. You have the right to have your verbal or written grievances investigated and to receive written notification of actions taken.

The following are the names and/or agencies you may contact:

Sandra Russell, RN-Center Director  
Columbia Endoscopy Center  
2739 Laurel Street, Suite 1B  
Columbia, SC 29204  
803 254-9588

You may contact the state to report a complaint.

South Carolina Health & Human Services  
PO Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
1-888.549.0820

State Web site: <https://www.scdhhs.gov/>

Medicare beneficiaries may also file a complaint with the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman. **Medicare Ombudsman Web address:**

<https://www.cms.gov/Center/Special-Topic/Ombudsman/Medicare-Beneficiary-Ombudsman-Home>

**Medicare:** [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)

**Office of the Inspector General:** <http://oig.hhs.gov>

This facility is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Complaints or grievances may also be filed through:

AAAHC

3 Parkway North Blvd., Suite 201

Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Phone: 847-853-6060 or email: [info@aaahc.org](mailto:info@aaahc.org)

## Physician Ownership

**Physician Financial Interest and Ownership:** **Physician Financial Interest and Ownership:** The center is owned, in part, by the physicians. The physician(s) who referred you to this center and who will be performing your procedure(s) may have a financial and ownership interest. Patients have the right to be treated at another health care facility of their choice. We are making this disclosure in accordance with federal regulations.

**THE FOLLOWING PHYSICIANS HAVE A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE CENTER:** Walter J. Bristow, MD, Jorge L. Galan, DO, Edward E. Kimbrough, MD, and Georges T Postic, MD, James M. Mann, MD.