



YANKTON MEDICAL CLINIC®, P.C.

Patient Rights, Responsibilities and Advance Directives

Ambulatory Surgery Center

Questions? 605-665-7841

1104 West Eighth Street, Yankton, SD 57078

www.YanktonMedicalClinic.com

Patient Bill of Rights

1. No patient of this center shall be deprived of any rights, benefits or privileges guaranteed by law, the Constitution of the State or the Constitution of the United States. Individuals shall be accorded impartial access to care regardless of race, creed, sex, national origin or sources of payment.
2. A patient shall be granted respect and privacy in his medical and personal care program. Care discussion, consultation, examination and treatment shall be confidential and shall be conducted discreetly.
3. The patient has the right to wear religious or other symbolic items as long as they do not interfere with diagnostic procedures or treatment.
4. The patient has the right to expect reasonable safety insofar as the center's practices and environment. The center shall attempt to safeguard small items of value for its patients.
5. The patient has the right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service to him/her. This includes the patient's right to know the center is owned and maintained by the physicians of the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. The patient has the right to know where alternatives for surgery exist.
6. The patient has the right to reasonably informed decisions involving his/her medical diagnosis, treatment and proposed procedure, including risks of mortality or serious side effects, problems related to recuperation and the probability of success in terms and language the patient can reasonably be expected to understand. When not medically advisable to give such information to the patient, the information shall be made available to a legal authorized individual.
7. When the patient does not speak or understand the predominant language of the community, he/she has the right to be accompanied by an interpreter.
8. Every patient shall be permitted to refuse medical treatment and to know the consequences of such action. The patient's refusal will free the center from obligation to provide treatment.
9. The patient has the right to know that in the event of an emergency or that if recovery at the center is slow, it may be necessary for him/her to be transferred to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital. An explanation of the need for transfer will be given to the patient. In the event of emergency, an explanation will be given to their significant other.
10. The patient has the right to be informed by the physician or the physician's delegate responsible for his/her care, of any continuing health care requirements following discharge from the center.
11. The patient is entitled to an itemized copy of his/her bill. The source of payment for treatment shall be confidential.
12. Patients are entitled to information about the center's mechanism for initiation, review, and resolution of patient complaints. Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C. will investigate concerns and complaints. Complaints can be filed with the State of South Dakota or the Office of the Medicare Ombudsman at:

Office of Health Care Facilities Licensure & Certification
South Dakota Department of Health
615 E. 4th St.
Pierre, SD 57501
800-738-2301
www.cms.hhs.gov/center/ombudsman.asp

Patient Responsibilities

1. To the best of his/her knowledge, the patient has the responsibility to provide complete and accurate information relating to his/her state of health. This includes past illnesses, hospitalizations, present complaints and medications.
2. A patient is responsible for following the care plan recommended by the practitioner for his/her care. This includes the instruction of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the coordinated plan of care and implement the physician's orders and as they enforce the center's policies and procedures. The patient is responsible for keeping appointments and is responsible for notifying his/her physician or the center in the event he/she is unable to do so for any reason.
3. The patient is responsible for following the center's policies and procedures affecting his/her care or conduct.
4. The patient is responsible for being considerate of the center's personnel and the rights of other patients and for assisting in the control of the number of visitors, noise and no smoking policy. The patient is responsible for being respectful of the property of other persons and the center.
5. The patient is responsible for his/her actions if he refuses treatment or if he/she does not follow the practitioner's instructions.
6. The patient is responsible for assuring that the financial obligations of his/her health care are fulfilled as promptly as possible.

Advance Directives

Patients who are capable of making their own health care decisions have the right to consent, to reject and to withdraw consent for medical procedures, treatments or interventions. They may say "yes", "no" or "I will think about it." For patients who are incapable, someone else must make decisions for them.

For many patients, this possible loss of control is a concern. Should they try to designate someone else to speak for them? How do they protect and effectively transfer their right to choose to a person whom they know will speak their mind and heart?

These concerns can be addressed by signing an advanced directive, a document that sets out guidelines for your future care. The two most common types of advance directives are the durable power of attorney for health care and the living will.

You have the right to have either or both documents as long as you are capable of making decisions for yourself. Once you are incapable of making your own decisions, you lose the opportunity to choose someone to speak for you or to make your wishes known about future health care decisions. For that reason, durable power of attorney for health care and living wills are like fire insurance - you must arrange it before the fire. If you become incapable of making your own decisions, without these documents in place the health care decisions made for you may not be those that you would choose for yourself.

If requested, the surgery center staff can provide you with official South Dakota or Nebraska advanced directive forms.

This information is based on South Dakota law and is designed to inform, not to advise. No person should ever apply or interpret any law without the aid of an attorney who knows the facts and may be aware of any changes in the law. This information was compiled by the South Dakota State Medical Association, the South Dakota Hospital Association and the State Bar of South Dakota.