

Child Rights

As a patient at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, I have a right:

1. To be told the truth about what is happening to me
2. To have the doctors, nurses and other healthcare people recognize that I cope and react differently than grown-ups
3. To cry or object to anything that hurts or upsets me
4. To be treated with courtesy and respect for me and my feelings
5. To have my basic needs met and to be clean, dry, comfortable and free of physical restrictions and restraining movement, whenever possible; if it is necessary to restrain movement, it will not be used as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience for the staff or retaliation
6. To be reassured that I did not do anything wrong to be sick
7. To have all questions answered in words I can understand
8. To make choices whenever possible, as long as they don't interfere with my medical care
9. To have my bed be a safe place, if at all possible, from hurtful things
10. To have the doctors, nurses and other healthcare people tell me ahead of time what they will do to me before they do it, unless I know what is happening, and to have people talk to me rather than whispering about me over my bed or out in the halls
11. To have the staff listen to me, because I have important things to say
12. To have initial and regular assessment and management of my pain
13. To know the names of doctors, nurses and other healthcare people who take care of me and know they respect my privacy
14. To have my daily routine stay as normal as possible and to sleep without interruptions whenever possible, to have quiet times during the day, to have school time provided, to play when I am able and to talk to my friends when they call or visit
15. To have my family members with me whenever they can stay, as long as it does not get in the way of my care or the care of other patients
16. To have a careful evaluation, followed by polite and prompt treatment, while being given the choice to watch certain procedures, if possible
17. To know my illness affects only me, my family and the people caring for me and that it is the business of no one else, unless I say to tell them
18. To leave the hospital as soon as possible after those taking care of me teach me how I can be healthy at home