Patient Guide

Our Mission | To serve through healing, education and discovery
Welcome to The University of Tennessee Medical Center, a part of University Health System (UHS). We are committed to improving the quality of life of our patients and their families, our team members and our affiliated physicians through leadership in healthcare, health education and clinical research. Our promise is to develop and provide innovative and comprehensive healthcare services of exceptional quality and value. Our success in fulfilling this promise will be measured by those we serve.

A hospital serves many purposes. We work to improve our patients’ health, treat patients with injuries and disease, and educate patients, the community, doctors, nurses and other health professionals. In carrying out these activities, The University of Tennessee Medical Center works to respect your values and dignity.

This guidebook is designed to provide you with important information you will need during your hospital stay. We welcome your comments and observations so that we can improve medical and healthcare services in our region.

Being in the hospital is a very stressful time for patients and their families. It is often a time of fear, confusion and high anxiety for both the patient and family members. Factors such as your condition, prescribed medicines and being in a new environment can add to behavior changes and frustration. Your medical team and support staff will strive to provide you with the best quality of health care and integrate you and your family members into our health care team.

We understand the needs of our patients and their families; however, there are instances where we may need to enforce rules to ensure that our patients receive the care and rest that they need. By addressing fears, working to develop a care plan, assisting with alleviating stress and providing you and your family with education, we will help facilitate a better hospital experience for you.

For Your Health

Patient Care Services
During your stay at the medical center, nurses will be assigned to you. In order to provide you with the best care, we will be examining you and asking you questions so we can better understand your condition. This information helps us plan your care and provide you with the care you need. If you have questions about your care, please feel free to speak with your nurses or doctors at any time. Recognized nationally by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as a Magnet® status hospital, the nurses of the medical center practice the art and science of nursing and take great pride in providing quality patient care. We want to keep you and your family informed and be responsive to your needs and concerns.

Understand Your Care
Make sure you know who is in charge of your care. This is particularly important when many physicians, surgeons, physician assistants, nurses, case managers and technicians are involved in your treatment and care.

- If you need surgery, make sure that you, your doctor and your surgeon all agree clearly on what needs to be done and that you have all of your questions answered.
- Ask questions about treatments that are being performed or medications you are given.
- If you have a test performed, always ask your doctor for the results.

Speak up if you have any questions or concerns. You have the right to know about your care and to question any member of your healthcare team.

Special Needs
Communication is essential to good healthcare. Please make your specific needs concerning hearing, language or vision known to us. The following services are available free of charge to you:

- Hearing Impairment – Access to interpreters is available during business hours, Monday – Friday, by calling Interpreter Services at (865) 305-9795. At other times, your nurse can schedule an interpreter for you. All patient rooms are equipped for TTY service. Call telecommunications at (865) 305-2580, option 1, to arrange for a TTY/TDD telephone. All televisions have closed captioning and all fire/smoke alarms include a strobe light.
- Foreign Language Assistance – Foreign language interpretation is available through CyraCom International Interpreter Service. Your nurse or the patient advocate can arrange for this service for you.

If you wish to receive health or medicine information in a language other than English, several different languages are available in print or through your in-room TV Patient Education System.
Your Medicine Information
It is important to share all of your medicine information with your medical team. Your medicine information includes your pharmacy phone number, prescriptions, any medicine samples and over-the-counter products like vitamins, herbal products, nutritional supplements, bowel products, eye products and patches. The medicine information you provide helps us to review your medicine(s) for your health needs as well as for side effects, allergies and/or food and medicine interactions.

You will be asked to provide the following information about each of your medicine(s):
- Name and dose or strength
- How and when you take your medicine(s)
- Why you take the medicine or for what health reason

If you have experienced an allergic reaction or side effects to any medicines or foods, inform your medical team of this medicine or food. Please provide the name of the medicine or food, the type of reaction, and when the reaction happened.

If you have any of your own medicines with you, do not take them during your hospital stay. As your medical team, we need to be able to supervise all the medicines you receive while in our care. If you have any of your own medicines with you and are unable to send them home, we will need to store them in the pharmacy until you are discharged.

Information on new medicines will be provided with the first dose of the medicine and at discharge to help you understand what it is used for or the effect, what it may be replacing and possible side effects.
What You Should Know About Pain

Managing your pain will help with your recovery. Although it may not be possible to eliminate all of your pain, every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible.

There are different types of pain that need different types of treatment. Your physician, nurse or pharmacist will discuss your options with you. Acute pain is what you experience with illness, injury or surgery and is usually temporary. Chronic pain can be constant or recurring for an extended period of time. An example of chronic pain is arthritis. Cancer pain can be a combination of both acute and chronic pain.

Each person feels and reacts differently to pain. The best way for your pain to be measured is through your description. Good communication with your nurse, doctor and other care givers will assist us with effectively managing your pain. You will be asked to rate your pain using a scale of 0 to 10 (with 0 being no pain and 10 being the worst pain) using the following scale.

- 0: No Pain
- 1-2: Mild Pain
- 3-4: Moderate Pain
- 5-6: Severe Pain
- 7-8: Very Severe Pain
- 9-10: Worst Possible

If you have any questions about your diet or nutritional care, ask your nurse to inform the dietitian. Food brought from outside sources is strongly discouraged and should not be eaten unless you have your doctor's permission.

Certain medical tests may be scheduled during your regular mealtime or a procedure may be performed that requires you to have an empty stomach. When your doctor has granted permission for you to eat, your nurse can order your meal.

Advance Directives

It is the medical center’s policy to honor patient wishes regarding medical treatments whenever possible and to assist patients in determining their preferences regarding treatment options. Advance directives are instructions you give about the care you want or don’t want. This is especially helpful if you become unable to communicate. Using a written advance directive, such as an Advance Care Plan or Appointment of Healthcare Agent, is the best way to make sure everyone knows what you want.

If you have an advance directive, please give a copy of the document to your nurse to be placed in your medical record. If you do not have an advance directive, you may obtain one or you may discuss your wishes with your doctor, who will document your wishes in your medical record. Ask your nurse for an advance directive form and call the Patient Advocate at (865) 305-9812 for information or questions.

Under Tennessee law, the medical center may refuse to implement an advance directive that conflicts with institutional policy. The medical center or a health care provider may decline to comply with an individual's instruction or health care decision that is medically inappropriate.

IQHealth Patient Portal

Patients can now access their personal health information online 24/7. See test results, refill a prescription, request appointments and more. The University of Tennessee Medical Center in partnership with Cerner Health welcomes you to discover the future of healthcare. IQHealth is a secure, personalized patient portal that provides you the ability to view, store and share your health information with your physician. To register for the portal, please call (865) 305-9501 or for more information about IQHealth visit www.utmedicalcenter.org/iqhealth.
We are concerned about your safety while you are in the medical center. We ask that you follow your doctors’ and nurses’ instructions and the hospital’s safety guidelines.

Preventing Falls
Keeping you safe from falling while you are in our care is a priority for the hospital. Being in different surroundings and taking medications while in the hospital can contribute to an increased risk of falling. DO NOT attempt to go to the bathroom, get out of bed or stand up without notifying the nursing staff. Your family and friends are not trained in assisting you!

Alarms may be used in your bed or chair to help alert our staff when you are attempting to get out of bed or up from a chair unassisted. We understand that alarms are sometimes noisy and inconvenient; however, they are used for your safety and to prevent any further harm to you that would be incurred by a fall.

Side rails on your bed may be raised for your protection. Always ask for help instead of trying to lower the rails yourself.

If we determine you are at an increased risk for falling, you will have a yellow wristband placed on your door to remind you, staff and your family members to do the following:
• Keep the bed in the lowest position
• Raise upper side rails
• Place call light and personal items within easy reach
• Leave the bathroom light on at night
• Do not use over-bed tables or other room furniture to assist with walking
• Keep the floor free from clutter, trip hazards, and spills
• Wear non-slip shoes when walking in your room or hallway

If you use a cane or walker at home, please ask your family to bring it to the medical center or let us know so we can provide rental equipment for you.

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Preventing Infections
Help Prevent Antibiotic Resistance
You may have heard about germs that the “usual” antibiotics will not work against. This means they have an “antibiotic resistance.” The medical center does not want this type of germ to spread and has a plan to protect our patients and visitors. Your lab tests are reviewed to plan to protect our patients and visitors. Your lab tests are reviewed to see if you have a positive test or if you have had one in the past.

If you do, we will:
• Clean everything that comes in and leaves your room.
• Put on a gown and gloves every time we come into your room.
• Ask that you only leave your room if necessary.

You and your visitors are important partners in helping prevent infections while you are in the hospital.

Clean Hands
Clean hands prevent infection from spreading. You and your visitors should use the foam dispensers located throughout the hospital or soap and water to clean your hands.
• Your health care team will clean their hands before they touch you, your medicines, your surgical site, or your IV lines. If you did not see them do it, please ask.
• Clean your hands before eating and after using the bathroom.
• Clean your hands before and after you touch your bandages.

If You Are Having Surgery
• Don’t use a razor in the area of your surgery. We will clip any hair that needs to come off.
• No one should touch your bandages except your healthcare team.
• We will teach you how to take care of your wound before you go home.
• Watch for fever or pain and redness from your wound, which are signs of infection. If you think you have an infection, notify your nurse or doctor.

IV’s and Urinary Catheters
A variety of tubing and lines may be used to assist in your recovery. When there is a need to place an IV line for an extended period of time, an IV called a central line may be required. This is an IV that goes into a large vein near your heart. It is usually put in your chest, neck, or groin. If it is placed in your arm, it is called a PICC line. These lines are for IV fluids or medicines that you will need to receive for several days. A urinary catheter, also known as a foley catheter, is a tube that is placed in your bladder to allow urine to drain.

The staff follows strict guidelines to reduce the risks of an infection from an IV or urinary catheter. These will only be placed when absolutely necessary and removed as quickly as possible.

Know Your Healthcare Professionals
All medical center healthcare team members will wear a photo identification badge while on duty. The badges may have different background colors – white or orange. “Baby Vols” badge is used for team members working in pediatrics and labor and delivery. If someone approaches you without a badge, ask to see their identification badge. If the person fails to produce an ID badge, immediately notify a nurse or manager. A white coat alone is not a substitute for an ID badge.

Patient Identification
During registration, an identification band will be placed around your wrist. To facilitate proper identification, please wear it at all times during your stay. If you lose your wristband or if it has incorrect information, tell the nurse and you will receive a new one. All healthcare providers should identify you each time they provide a medicine, treatment or collect a specimen. They do this by comparing the information on your ID band with another document. You will be asked to state your name and date of birth quite often to ensure your safety.
Planning for your discharge will often begin early in your stay at the hospital and will be coordinated with your doctor, nurses and case manager. The day of your discharge will begin when your doctor writes a discharge order and gives it to your nurse. Obtaining prescriptions, arranging for continued care at home or assisted living and talking with all physicians involved in your care will be completed before your discharge. We will do our best to complete your discharge as quickly as possible. When all necessary steps are completed, the nurse will provide you with your personalized discharge instructions. Check your room carefully for any personal belongings.

**Security Sensitive Areas**
The labor and delivery area, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the pediatric and obstetric floors are secured areas. Access to these areas is by ID card reader only. If your visit requires access to these areas, please use the white phones located at the entry doors to request entry.

**Drills/Exercises/Events**
Fire drills and emergency management exercises (disaster drills) are conducted to prepare the medical center staff for emergencies. During fire drills, a team member will close your door and many doors will close automatically throughout the hospital. You and your visitors must remain in your room during these drills. Do not use the elevators during drills.

Occasionally, the medical center may experience an event that could impact building operations, such as severe weather or loss of power. During a real event, a medical center team member will provide you with instructions. You and your visitors should remain in your room unless instructed otherwise.

**Case Management**
Case Management assists with discharge needs and is a service provided to patients by the medical center. A Case Manager will do an assessment for discharge needs within 24-48 hours after admission. Patients may also request a discharge evaluation by calling (865) 305-9075 or by asking their nurse to contact Case Management.

**Medicines at Discharge**
Your nurse will provide you with an updated medicine list. The nurse will review any new medicines and clarify which medicines you will continue to take or stop once you leave the hospital. This new medicine list should replace any list you had before coming to the hospital. Please share this new medicine list with each of your doctors and your pharmacy. Your nurse can contact a pharmacist for you if you need further medicine education or have any questions.

If your own medicines were brought from home and were stored in our Pharmacy during your stay, please ask that the nurse have these returned prior to your discharge.

**University Pharmacy**
For your convenience, a retail pharmacy is located in the lobby across from the cafeteria entrance. Prescriptions provided at discharge may be filled in this pharmacy and delivered to your room before you leave the hospital. Please call University Pharmacy at (865) 305-7420 if you would like this service. University Pharmacy is open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Outpatient Rehabilitation**
If your physician recommends outpatient rehabilitation, our professional staff provides services at various locations. For additional information call:
- Physical Therapy ................................. (865) 305-6630
- Speech Therapy ................................. (865) 305-9151
- Balance and Hearing Services ............ (865) 305-9569
- Fitness ............................................ (865) 305-3299

**Care at Home**
After you leave the hospital, you may need a home care nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist or another medical professional. The University of Tennessee Medical Center Home Care Services offers a variety of special services including home infusion therapy, hospice care, wound care, patient instruction/teaching and assistance with adapting to your home environment following your hospital stay. Many patients will qualify for the use of an emergency personal response service at no charge while a patient of UT Home Care Services. For information, call (865) 544-6200.

**Tobacco-Free Facility**
The University of Tennessee Medical Center is a tobacco-free facility. Patients, visitors, physicians, team members and volunteers are not permitted to smoke under any circumstances inside or outside the hospital, including parking areas.

Patients are strongly encouraged to use smoking cessation assistance/treatments during their hospital stay. Discuss this option with your healthcare provider.

CAUTION: Oxygen greatly increases the intensity and severity of a fire. Under no circumstances should a patient smoke who is receiving oxygen.

**Security**
Security officers are available 24-hours-a-day and routinely patrol the campus. The Security Department can be contacted at (865) 305-9540. In the event of an emergency, call (865) 305-9110.
For Your Comfort

Clergy
A staff of chaplains is available at the hospital to minister to the needs of our patients and their families, regardless of religious affiliation. A chaplain is on site at all times and may be contacted through your nurse, the hospital operator (by dialing 0) or Pastoral Care at (865) 305-9704. If you would like to have your minister, a chaplain or your personal denomination informed of your admission, please let the Patient Registration staff or your nurse know of your preference.

Patient Relations
It is the desire and intent of the medical center to provide safe and effective medical care to all patients. During the course of diagnosis, treatment and recovery, if you or your representative have questions or concerns regarding the quality, safety or appropriateness of your care, please contact the unit’s Nurse Manager or Team Leader for inpatient concerns. Should you feel your issue remains unresolved, then contact the Patient Advocate at extension 865-305-9812. Emergency Department concerns are managed by the Emergency Department Patient Representatives 24/7 at 865-305-6478.

Medical Ethics Consultation
Patients, their families and the healthcare team can face difficult treatment decisions. If you need to discuss an ethical issue related to your care, a member of The University of Tennessee Medical Center’s Ethics Committee is available. For assistance, ask your nurse how to reach this valuable resource.

For Your Convenience

Gift Shop
The Gift Shop is located on the first floor and offers a variety of gift items including personal and baby-care items, reading materials, cards, flowers and more. The shop is open:
Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Television
In addition to watching TV, your television is an Interactive Patient Education System. This system provides basic cable TV service and the ability to request services within the hospital, such as diet assistance or pastoral care. Movies, shows, games and an extensive patient health education information service can be accessed through the TV. Health educational videos are available through the bedside remote control and you may be asked to view videos important to your care.

The Health Information Alert feature on your TV Patient Education System also allows you or family members to request information from the Health Information Center on a health topic. The topic is researched and the information is brought to your hospital unit.

Video Chat
Family members are often unable to visit a loved one every day, especially if they live out of town. For the person in the hospital, not seeing family and friends can have an impact on recovery. The medical center offers a service for inpatients to video chat with family and friends via Google Video Chat.

Request services via your TV’s Request Services Alert or call Audio Visual at (865) 305-9454, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers
All volunteers wear a medical center photo ID and volunteer uniforms. Volunteers wear royal blue smocks, vests or shirts. Student volunteers also wear royal blue golf shirts. If you need assistance purchasing personal or miscellaneous items, such as newspapers, toiletries or cards, please call the Gift Shop at (865) 305-9517 to make arrangements. A volunteer will deliver the items to your room if one is available. If you need assistance from a volunteer or would like information on becoming a volunteer, please call Volunteer Services at (865) 305-9515.

Please note that incoming calls to all patient rooms are blocked from 10:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. so you can rest. You can make outgoing calls during this time.

Your Room
If you experience any issues with your room (bed, telephone, air conditioning or other maintenance issues), please call (865) 305-2580. For housekeeping-related issues, please call Environmental Services at (865) 305-9505. You may also tell your nurse about any issues.

Cellular Telephones
Cell phones may pose a hazard to patients, especially those in special care units or those who are using certain types of medical equipment. Please comply with cell phone usage restrictions as posted in each area of the hospital.

Your Room
In limited situations, clinical restrictions may be applied to patient visitation as reasonably necessary to provide safe care to you and to other patients. Your physician can limit visitation for medical reasons.
Mailboxes – are in several locations:
• G1 – ground floor parking garage elevators in Medical Building C
• Outside the Ground Floor of Medical Building B
• Outside the Boling Pavilion entrance

Stamps can be purchased in the Gift Shop.

Newspapers – Newspapers can be purchased in the Gift Shop or at newsstands located at the Boling Pavilion entrance and the G1 – ground floor parking garage elevators in Medical Building C.

Vending Machines - are located in many areas throughout the hospital. These areas include:
• Emergency Department
• Outside Intensive Care and Surgery waiting areas
• Medical Building B by first floor elevators
• Parking Garage G1 – ground floor parking garage in Medical Building C
• Boling East Pavilion – floors 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12
• Heart Lung Vascular Institute – first floor
• Heart Hospital – floors 2, 3

Your Privacy

At The University of Tennessee Medical Center, your privacy is our priority. During the registration/admission process, you were given the opportunity to review our Notice of Information Practices. This notice describes how medical information may be used and disclosed and how you can obtain this information. We follow applicable federal and state guidelines to maintain the confidentiality of your medical information. The federal guidelines with regard to the confidentiality of your medical information may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 45 CFR 164.500 et seq.

How Do We Use Your Medical Information

When you visit a UHS facility, we may use your medical information to treat you, to obtain payment for services and to conduct normal business known as healthcare operations. Examples of how we use your information include the following:

Treatment – We keep a record of each visit or admission. This record may include your test results, diagnoses, medications and your response to medications or other therapies. This allows your doctors, nurses and other clinical staff to provide the right care to meet your needs.

Payment – We document the services and supplies you receive at each visit or admission and may provide this information as needed so that you, your insurance company, or another third party can pay us.

We may tell your health plan provider about upcoming treatment or services that require prior approval.

Healthcare Operations – Medical information is used to improve the services we provide, to train team members and students, for business management, quality improvement and for customer service.

Other Services - We may also use information to:
• Recommend treatment alternatives.
• Tell you about health benefits and services.
• Communicate with family or friends involved in your care.
• Communicate with other UHS organizations or associates for treatment, payment or healthcare operations. Business associates, however, must follow privacy rules.
• Communicate with authorized doctors and other healthcare professionals treating you through the East Tennessee Health Information Network.
• Send appointment reminders.¹
• Include you on the inpatient list for callers or visitors if you are admitted.¹
• Let your clergy know if you have been admitted.¹
• Contact you for UHS fundraising.¹

Services followed by a (1) are optional. Tell the scheduler, admitting clerk, or fundraiser if you do not wish to receive this service.

Your Right To Privacy

You have the right to:

• Request that we restrict how we disclose your medical information to a health plan for payment and/or operations when your medical information relates to a healthcare service or product that you have personally paid for in full.
• Request that we restrict how we use or disclose your medical information. However, we may not be able to comply with all requests as we must comply with laws.
• Request that we use a specific telephone number or address to communicate with you.
• Inspect and copy your medical information (fees may apply).²
• Request additions or corrections to your medical information.²
• Receive an accounting of how your medical information was disclosed (excludes disclosures for treatment, payment, healthcare operations and some required disclosures).
• Obtain a paper copy of this notice even if you receive it electronically.
• Receive notification if you are affected by a breach of unsecured protected health information.

Requests followed by a (2) must be in writing.
If You Have Insurance Coverage

The University of Tennessee Medical Center will submit your bill to your insurance carrier. Any deductible, co-insurance, or co-pay may be collected prior to or during admission. You will receive a bill for any remaining deductible, co-insurance, or non-covered service after your insurance company has processed your claim. Accepted forms of payment include cash, check, MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. If you have any questions about your billing statement or need to discuss payment options, please call our Billing Office – Patient Accounts at (865) 251-4400.

Online Services

For added convenience, you can manage your bill online at www.utmedicalcenter.org by selecting the Bill Pay option. Online bill pay is available 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. Patients can utilize our online services to view or pay a bill, update an address, update insurance information or send an email to our Business Office Customer Service team at bocustomerservice@utmck.edu. Other information available on the bill pay website includes information about the medical center's financial assistance policy, a comprehensive overview of our billing policies and a list of important phone numbers.

If You Do Not Have Insurance

Patients without insurance coverage will receive a discount on their hospital bill. The medical center also offers financial assistance to qualified, low-income or uninsured patients. Patients can find out if they may qualify for assistance by contacting a financial counselor at (865) 305-9016 or the Business Office - Patient Accounts at (865) 251-4400.

Referrals to Collection Agencies

The medical center reserves the right to utilize the services of independently licensed collection agencies for account balances that remain unpaid after 90 days.

Estimates for Procedures

If you would like an estimate for elective, non-contracted insurance or non-covered procedures, please call one of our financial counselors at (865) 305-9016. Because of the complex nature of medical procedures, all prices quoted are not a guarantee of the final charge and should be considered estimates only. The final charge depends on the actual services provided.

Other Bills Related to Your Hospital Stay or Service

Listed below are contact numbers for professional service charges that are not included in your hospital bill. You will receive separate bills from your personal physician, surgeon and other specialists, such as a radiologist, anesthesiologist, emergency physician, cardiologist or pathologist. Please contact the appropriate professional if you have questions about their specific services.

- Anesthesiology ....................................... (865) 588-0880
- Laboratory (LabCorp) ............................. (800) 845-6167
- Pathology............................................. (800) 238-0097
- TeamHealth (ER) ..................................(888) 952-6772
- University Radiologists ..................... (865) 584-7376
- Cardiology ............................................. (865) 544-2800

Our Responsibilities for Your Privacy

UHS is required by law to:
• Maintain the privacy of your medical information.
• Provide this notice of our duties and privacy practices.
• Abide by the terms of the notice currently in effect.

We reserve the right to change privacy practices and make new practices effective for all the information we maintain. Revised notices will be available in our facilities and will be available from your healthcare provider.

All complaints will be thoroughly investigated and you will not suffer retaliation for filing a complaint. You may also file a complaint with the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C.

Your Hospital Bill

Contact Information

If you would like to exercise your rights or if you have privacy concerns, contact us at:
University Health System, Inc.
Compliance Office
2121 Medical Center Way, Suite 310
Knoxville, TN 37920
Phone: (865) 305-9118
Fax: (865) 305-6968

Or call the toll-free confidential reporting line at (877) 591-6744.
Visit our website at www.utmedicalcenter.org, call or write the privacy officer at the number and address listed in this notice.
At The University of Tennessee Medical Center, we strive to give our patients the very finest healthcare available. Our goal is to provide the highest quality service for all patients and guests. We welcome your comments about the care and service you received during your stay, so that we can make improvements. If you have a concern during your stay that cannot be resolved to your satisfaction through your nurse, please ask to speak with the nurse manager on your unit or contact the Patient Advocate Office at (865) 305-9812.

We have contracted with Press Ganey Associates, Inc. to assist us with measuring customer satisfaction. Patients are randomly selected to receive our survey after discharge. If you receive one of our surveys in the mail, please take the time to complete the survey and return it. Your opinions about your hospital stay are important to us and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Grievances
The University of Tennessee Medical Center works to respect your values and dignity. If you do not feel that issues during your stay were satisfactorily resolved, you have the right to request a formal review through the patient grievance process. The hospital Patient Advocate can explain the grievance process to you and assist you in filing a grievance.

As a patient, you may lodge a grievance with the State of Tennessee Department of Health regardless of whether you choose to use the medical center’s grievance process. The contact information is listed below:

State of Tennessee Department of Health
Office of Healthcare Facilities
7175 Strawberry Plains Pike, Suite 103
Knoxville, TN 37914
Phone: 865-594-9396
Fax: 865-594-5739

Customer Satisfaction

Investing in the Future
The University of Tennessee Medical Center and UT Graduate School of Medicine have created a powerful partnership with our community friends, team members, physicians and grateful patients who have joined us in our effort to ensure a healthier tomorrow for the communities we serve. The compassionate giving of donors has allowed us to advance medical research and improve patient care through detection, treatment and rehabilitation methods, for devastating ailments like cancer, stroke, orthopaedics, heart disease and trauma care.

As non-profit agencies, we rely on the generous support of our donors to help us advance healing techniques, healthcare education and medical exploration. We invite you to join us and learn more about how your charitable giving can change the practice of medicine throughout East Tennessee and beyond. The Office of Development can provide you with important information about the giving opportunities available at The University of Tennessee Medical Center and UT Graduate School of Medicine and the financial benefits to philanthropic giving. To learn more about how you can join us in improving healthcare for all throughout the communities we serve, please contact:

The University of Tennessee Medical Center
UT Graduate School of Medicine
Office of Development
2121 Medical Center Way, Suite 110
Knoxville, TN 37920-2205
(865) 305-6611
E-mail – development@utmck.edu
# Your Hospital Rights and Responsibilities

We consider you a partner in your hospital care. When you are well-informed, participate in treatment decisions and communicate openly with your doctors and other health professionals, you help make your care as effective as possible. The University of Tennessee Medical Center encourages respect for the personal preferences and values of each individual.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>While you are receiving services in the hospital, your rights include the following:</td>
<td>You also have responsibilities as a patient:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. You have the right to considerate and respectful care, regardless of your disabilities, age, race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. This includes interpretive services and assistive devices when needed.</td>
<td>This hospital works to provide care efficiently and fairly to all patients and the community. You and your visitors are responsible for being respectful of the needs of other patients, staff, and the hospital.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. You have the right to appropriate pain assessment and management.</td>
<td>You have a responsibility to cooperate with staff efforts to assess and manage your pain as safely as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. You have the right to be well-informed about your illness, possible treatments, and likely outcome and to discuss this information with your doctor. You have the right to be addressed by your preferred name, to know the names and roles of people treating you, and to participate in the development of your plan of care. You have the right to have your family and physician promptly notified of your admission to the hospital.</td>
<td>You are responsible for providing information about your health, including past illnesses, hospital stays, and use of prescription and over-the-counter medicines, including vitamins and herbal supplements. You are responsible for asking questions when you do not understand information or instructions. It is your responsibility to provide your physician’s name and updated contact names and numbers for family members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. You have the right to consent to or refuse a treatment, as permitted by law, throughout your hospital stay. If you refuse a recommended treatment, you are entitled to other appropriate care and services that the hospital provides or transfer to another health care provider.</td>
<td>If you believe you cannot follow through with your treatment, you are responsible for telling your doctor.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. You have the right to have advance directives, such as an Advance Care Plan or Appointment of Healthcare Agent. These documents express your choices about your future care or name someone to decide if you cannot speak for yourself. It is the policy of University of Tennessee Medical Center to honor advance directives.</td>
<td>If you have a written advance directive, you should provide a copy to the hospital, your family, and your doctor. You are responsible to think about your wishes for care at the end of life and to communicate your wishes to your family as well as to caregivers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. You have the right to privacy, safety, and security. The hospital, your doctor, and others caring for you will protect your privacy, safety, and security as much as possible.</td>
<td>You have a responsibility to accept those intrusions on your privacy that are necessary for providing care. You have a responsibility to respect the privacy and security of others. You are responsible for securing your own valuables.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. You have the right to expect that treatment records are confidential unless you have given permission to release information or reporting is required or permitted by law. When the hospital releases records to others, such as insurers, it emphasizes that the records are confidential.</td>
<td>You have a responsibility to be open and honest with caregivers. You have a responsibility to give permission for release of your records when this is necessary for coordinating your care or for arranging payment.</td>
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<td>8. You have the right to review your medical records and to have the information explained, except when restricted by law.</td>
<td>It is your responsibility to ask questions about anything you do not understand.</td>
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<td>Rights</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>You have the right to expect that the hospital will give you necessary health services to the best of its ability. Treatment, referral or transfer may be recommended. If transfer is recommended or requested, you will be informed of risks, benefits, and alternatives. You will not be transferred until the other institution agrees to accept you. In the event of a disaster, you may be evacuated to another facility. The facility will be selected based on your condition and the services available.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>You have the right to reasonable continuity of care during hospitalization and appropriate follow-up after your discharge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>You have the right to be told of realistic care alternatives when hospital care is no longer appropriate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>You have the right to ask and be informed about the existence of business relationships among the hospital, educational institutions, other health care providers, or payers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>You have the right to consent or decline to take part in research involving your care. If you choose not to take part, you will receive the most effective care the hospital otherwise provides.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>You have the right to know about hospital rules that affect you and your treatment.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>You have the right to be informed about estimated hospital charges and payment methods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>You have the right to know about the availability of hospital resources, such as patient representatives or advocates, patient grievance process, or ethics committee that can help you resolve problems and questions about your hospital stay and care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>You have the right to access protective services, which include guardianship and advocacy services, conservatorship, and adult and child protective services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>You have the right to be free from mental and physical abuse, neglect, or harassment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>You have the right to choose who visits you, and have your visitors be allowed full and equal visitation privileges regardless of race, age, color, national origin, ethnicity, culture, language, socioeconomic status, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability.*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Important Telephone Numbers

Admission 865-305-9501
Care Management 865-305-9075
Cashier's Office 865-305-9007
Health Information Center 865-305-9525
Healthcare Coordination 865-305-6970
Operator (Hospital Information Desk) 865-305-8000
Pastoral Care (Chaplain's Office) 865-305-9704
Patient Billing 865-251-4400
Patient Representative 865-305-9812
Security Department 865-305-9540