

## Legal and Ethical Responsibilities

**Privileged Communication** - all information given to health care personnel by a patient; it must be kept confidential and shared only with other members of the patient's health care team

Shared only with written consent: \*what, \*who and \*time limits

Exceptions: births, deaths, violence that may involve the police, drug abuse, communicable diseases and STIs

**Tort** - wrongful acts that do not involve contracts; occurs when a person is harmed because a health care worker does not meet the expected standard of care

**Malpractice** - "bad practice" or "professional negligence" (that results in harm)

**Negligence** - failure to give standard care (that results in harm)

**Assault & Battery** - unlawful touching, injury, threat, or attempt to injure

**Informed Consent** - patient didn't authorize a decision/procedure or a full explanation (or didn't receive a full explanation)

**Invasion of Privacy** - exposure or confidentiality breach

**False Imprisonment** - unjustified restraint

**Abuse** - physical, verbal, psychological, or sexual (that results in harm)

**Defamation** - false statements that injure another's reputation

**Libel** - written

**Slander** - spoken

## Professional Standards

1. Perform only those **procedures** for which you've been **trained** and are **legally** permitted to do.
2. Use **approved/correct** methods.
3. Obtain proper **authorization** beforehand.
4. **Identify** the patient and obtain **consent**.
5. Observe all **safety precautions**.
6. Keep all information **confidential**.
7. Think **before** you speak.
8. Treat **all** patients **equally**.
9. Accept no **tips and/or bribes** for the care you provide.
10. Report **errors** to your supervisor **immediately**.
11. Behave professionally in **dress, language, manners** and **actions**.

## Patient's Bill of Rights

A patient has the right to:

1. Considerate and **respectful** care
2. Obtain **complete** current information concerning **diagnosis**, treatment and **prognosis** (expected outcome)
3. **Receive** information necessary to give **informed consent** prior to the start of any **procedure** or treatment
4. Have **advanced directives** for health care and/or **refuse** treatment to the extent permitted under the **law**
5. **Privacy** concerning a medical care program
6. **Confidential** treatment of all communications and records
7. **Reasonable response** to a request for services
8. Obtain **information** regarding any relationship of the hospital to other health care and educational institutions
9. Be **advised** of and have the **right to refuse** to participate in any research project
10. Expect reasonable **continuity** of care
11. Review **medical records** and examine **bills** and receive an **explanation** of all care and charges
12. Be informed of any hospital **rules**, regulations, and/or policies and the resources available to resolve **disputes or grievances**

Note - also be aware of the **Resident's Bill of Rights**