

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

University Behavioral Health Care (UBHC) has assembled the following “Patient Rights” as recognition of the need to protect and preserve the individual’s identity when being treated in one of its inpatient units or outpatient programs. Please feel free to discuss these points with staff, relatives and personal physician.

As a patient of UBHC you are entitled to the:

- Right to be free from unnecessary or excessive medication (see N.J.A.C. 10:37-6.54).
- Right not to be subjected to non-standard treatment or procedures, experimental procedures, research, or provider demonstration programs, without written informed consent (if a client has been adjudicated incompetent, authorization for such procedures may be obtained only pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 30:4-24.2[d]2).
- Right to treatment in the least restrictive setting, free from physical restraints and isolation, provided, however, that a client in Inpatient Care may be restrained or isolated in an emergency pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 30:4-24.2d(3). (See N.J.A.C. 10:37-6, Article XV.)
- Right to be free from corporal punishment.
- Right to privacy and dignity.
- Right to the least restrictive conditions necessary to achieve the goals of treatment/services.
- Right to treatment
Considerate and respectful care provided without discrimination within a humane physical and psychological environment, which enables the patient to participate in the treatment planning process.
- Knowledge of treatment
Explanation and participation in the planning process; privilege to accept or reject part or all of the treatment prescribed; opportunity to discuss information in the clinical record with a mental health professional.
- Right to freedom from deprivation of any civil right solely by reason of receiving treatment and right to exercise civil rights.
- Right to be informed in language understood by lay persons.
- Right to information about UBHC’s relationship to other health care and educational institutions insofar as care is concerned.
- Right to be informed of the presence of and to refuse participation in treatment by medical, psychological, social work, nursing or other students.
- Right to prompt and adequate medical treatment for any physical ailment.
- Right to pain management – taking into account personal, cultural, spiritual and/or ethnic beliefs. To receive information and education regarding pain, management of pain, potential limitations and potential side effects of pain treatment.
- Right to compensation for labor performed.
- Right to know rules and regulations of UBHC, which apply to your conduct as a patient.
- Right to choose a representative to help exercise an individual’s rights.
- Right to receive education suitable to your age and attainment, should you be between 5 and 20 years of age (inpatient).
- Right to access protective and advocacy services.
- Right to initiate a complaint and seek review of the complaint by contacting the program administrator or the Office of the Patient/Consumer Advocate whose name and number are posted on the clinical unit.

In inpatient or other residential care:

- The right to normal opportunities for interaction with members of the opposite sex;
- The right of a client to wear his/her clothes; to keep and use his/her personal possessions including toilet articles; and to keep and be allowed to spend his/her own money for expenses and purchases;
- The right to have access to individual storage space for his/her private use;
- The right to see visitors each day;
- The right to have reasonable access to and use of telephone, both to make and receive confidential calls;
- The right to have ready access to letter writing materials, including stamps, and the right to mail and receive unopened correspondence;
- The right to regular physical exercise several times a week;
- The right to be outdoors at regular and frequent intervals, in the absence of medical considerations;
- The right to practice the religion of his/her choice or abstain from religious practices; and
- The right to receive prompt and adequate medical treatment for any physical ailment.