

PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS
ADDICTIONS TREATMENT PROGRAMS

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 addictions treatment programs. Please feel free to discuss these points with staff, relatives and your physician.

As a patient of UBHC you are entitled to the Right:

- To be informed of these rights, as evidenced by your written acknowledgment or by documentation by staff in the clinical record that you were offered a written copy of these rights;
- To be notified of any rules and policies the program has established governing patient conduct in the program;
- To be informed of services available in the program, the names and professional status of the staff providing and/or responsible for the patient's care, and fees and related charges, including the payment, fee, deposit, and refund policy of the program and any charges for services not covered by sources of third-party payment or the program's basic rate;
- To be informed if the program has authorized other health care and educational institutions to participate in your treatment, the identity and function of these institutions, and to refuse to allow their participation in your treatment;
- To receive from your physicians or clinical practitioner(s) an explanation of your complete medical/health condition or diagnosis, recommended treatment, treatment options, including the option of no treatment, risks(s) of treatment, and expected result(s);
 - If, in the opinion of the medical director or director of substance abuse counseling, this information would be detrimental to the patient's health, or if the patient is not capable of understanding the information, the explanation shall be provided to a family member, legal guardian or significant other, as available;
 - Release of information to a family member, legal guardian or significant other, along with the reason for not informing the patient directly, shall be documented in the patient's clinical record; and
 - All consents to release information shall be signed by the patient or their parent, guardian or legally authorized representative;
- To participate in the planning of your care and treatment, and to refuse medication and treatment;
 - A patient's refusal of medication or treatment shall be documented in the client's clinical record;
- To participate in experimental research only when the patient gives informed, written consent to such participation, or when a guardian or legally authorized representative gives such consent for an incompetent patient in accordance with law, rule and regulation;
- To voice grievances or recommend changes in policies and services to program staff, the governing authority, and/or outside representatives of your choice either individually or as group, free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal;
- To be free from mental and physical abuse, exploitation, and from use of restraints;
 - A patient's ordered medications shall not be withheld for failure to comply with facility rules or procedures, unless the decision is made to terminate the patient in accordance with this chapter; medications may only be withheld when the facility medical staff determines that such action is medically indicated;
- To confidential treatment of information about the patient;
 - Information in the patient's clinical record shall not be released to anyone outside the program without the patient's written approval to release the information in accordance with Federal statutes and rules for the Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Client Records at 42 U.S.C. §§ 290dd-2, and 290ee-2, and 42 CFR Part 2 §§ 2.1 et seq., and the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) at 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, unless the release of the information is required and permitted by law, a third-party payment contract, a peer review, or the information is needed by DHS for statutorily authorized purposes; and
 - The program may release data about the patient for studies containing aggregated statistics only when the patient's identity is protected and masked;
- To be treated with courtesy, consideration, respect, and with recognition of your dignity, individuality, and right to privacy, including, but not limited to, auditory and visual privacy;
 - The patient's privacy also shall be respected when program staff are discussing the patient with others;
- To exercise civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions;
 - No religious beliefs or practices, or any attendance at religious services, shall be imposed upon any patient;
- To not be discriminated against because of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, disability (including, but not limited to, blind, deaf, hard of hearing), or ability to pay; or to be deprived of any constitutional, civil, and/or legal rights.
 - Programs shall not discriminate against clients taking medications as prescribed;
- To be transferred or discharged only for medical reasons, for the patient's welfare, that of other patients or staff upon the written order of a physician or other licensed clinician, or for failure to pay required fees as agreed at time of admission (except as prohibited by sources of third-party payment);
 - Transfers and discharges, and the reasons therefore, shall be documented in the patient's clinical record; and
 - If a transfer or discharge on a non-emergency basis is planned by the outpatient substance use disorder treatment program, the patient and his or her family shall be given at least 10 days advance notice of such transfer or discharge, except as otherwise provided for in N.J.A.C. 10:161B-6.4(c);
- To be notified in writing, and to have the opportunity to appeal, an involuntary discharge; and
- To have access to and obtain a copy of your clinical record, in accordance with the program's policies and procedures and applicable Federal and State laws and rules.