

Pain Care Bill of Rights

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This Pain Care Bill of Rights was developed by the American Pain Foundation, 201 N. Charles Street, Suite 710, Baltimore, MD 21201, 888-615-7246, www.painfoundation.org. These are the rights you should expect from your doctor, nurse, dentist, or other healthcare provider. Although I am not a healthcare provider myself, I agree to abide by these guidelines.

As a person with pain, you have the right to:

- Have your report of pain taken seriously and to be treated with dignity and respect by doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals.
- Have your pain thoroughly assessed and promptly treated.
- Be informed by your healthcare provider about what may be causing your pain, possible treatments, and the benefits, risks and costs of each.
- Participate actively in decisions about how to manage your pain.
- Have your pain reassessed regularly and your treatment adjusted if your pain has not been eased.
- Be referred to a pain specialist if your pain persists.
- Get clear and prompt answers to your questions, take time to make decisions, and refuse a particular type of treatment if you choose.

Although not always required by law, these are the rights you should expect, and if necessary demand, for your pain care.

Distributed by:

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