Patient Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights is strengthened, including regarding patients' rights to freedom from abuse, to have their needs and preferences responded to, and to be informed about and participate in their care with the participation of their family or other caregivers.

s.9 (1) Every health service provider and Ontario Health Team shall ensure that the following rights of patients are fully respected and promoted:

1. A patient has the right to be dealt with by the provider of the home and community care service in a respectful manner and to be free from physical, sexual, mental, emotional, verbal and financial abuse by the provider.
2. A patient has the right to be dealt with by the provider of the home and community care service in a manner that respects the patient's dignity and privacy and that promotes the patient's autonomy and participation in decision-making.
3. A patient has the right to be dealt with by the provider of the home and community care service in a manner that recognizes the patient's individuality and that is sensitive to and responds to the patient's needs and preferences, including preferences based on ethnic, spiritual, linguistic, familial and cultural factors.
4. A patient has the right to receive home and community care services free from discrimination on any ground of discrimination prohibited by the Human Rights Code of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
5. A patient who is First Nations, Métis or Inuk has the right to receive home and community care services in a culturally safe manner.
6. A patient has the right to clear and accessible information about their home and community care services.
7. A patient has the right to participate in the assessment of their needs, development of their care plan, reassessment of their needs and revision of their care plan.
8. A patient has the right to designate a person to be present with them during assessments.
9. A patient has the right to designate a person to participate in the development, evaluation and revision of their care plan.
10. A patient who receives more than one home and community care service has the right to receive assistance in co-ordinating their services from the health service provider or Ontario Health Team.
11. A patient has the right to give or refuse consent to the provision of any home and community care service.
12. A patient has the right to raise concerns or recommend changes in connection with the home and community care service provided to them and in connection with policies and decisions that affect their interests, to the provider of the home and community care service, the Agency and its employees, government officials or any other person, without fear of interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.
13. A patient who receives a home and community care service has the right to be informed of the laws, rules and policies affecting the operation of the provider of the home and community care service, including this Patient Bill of Rights, and to be informed, in writing, of the procedures for initiating complaints about the provider.

(2) Every health service provider or Ontario Health Team shall ensure a copy of the Patient Bill of Rights is posted in their business premises and on their website, and at the business premises and on a website of providers of home and community care services.