Patient’s Bill of Rights

What is the issue?

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- Most of the times in India patients are less aware of their rights.
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- There is no law to deal with patient’s rights, except some aspects of the Consumer Protection Act.
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- The patient’s bill of rights, will address an information lag in medical delivery in the country.
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What are the needed rights?

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- Every patient is entitled to quality healthcare and treatment consistent with available resources and accepted medical standards, regardless of caste, creed or religion.
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- A patient has the right to information about doctors.
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- The patient’s relatives have a right to know about the condition of the patient, immediately after life-saving measures are instituted.
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- They have a right to participate in the decision related to the treatment, especially if it is an end of life situation.
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- The pros and cons of using invasive life-support devices and the chances for cure have to be clearly explained to patients in understandable language.
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- The patient has a right to information, in non-clinical terms, on complications, risks, benefits, and alternative treatments and the chance of cure or benefit.

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- Every patient has the **right to refuse treatment** and to be informed of the consequences of his/her refusal.
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- A patient has the **right to respectful treatment**. This means that a patient’s dignity is paramount to healthcare. e.g It is highly unethical to use measures to prolong oxygenation after vital systems have stopped working spontaneously.
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- The patient has the right to care and treatment in a safe environment.
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- The patient can to refuse to participate in any research projects.
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- A patient also has the **right to privacy and confidentiality** on matters concerning medical care.
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- Every hospital should have a charter which shall identify the roles and responsibilities of hospital staff towards patients’ and families’ rights.
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Source: Indian Express

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