

PUBLIC HEALTH CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 368 of 1978

333.20201 Policy describing rights and responsibilities of patients or residents; adoption; posting and distribution; contents; additional requirements; discharging, harassing, retaliating, or discriminating against patient exercising protected right; exercise of rights by patient's representative; informing patient or resident of policy; designation of person to exercise rights and responsibilities; additional patients' rights; definitions.

Sec. 20201. (1) A health facility or agency that provides services directly to patients or residents and is licensed under this article shall adopt a policy describing the rights and responsibilities of patients or residents admitted to the health facility or agency. Except for a licensed health maintenance organization, which shall comply with chapter 35 of the insurance code of 1956, 1956 PA 218, MCL 500.3501 to 500.3580, the policy shall be posted at a public place in the health facility or agency and shall be provided to each member of the health facility or agency staff. Patients or residents shall be treated in accordance with the policy.

(2) The policy describing the rights and responsibilities of patients or residents required under subsection (1) shall include, as a minimum, all of the following:

(a) A patient or resident shall not be denied appropriate care on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual preference, or source of payment.

(b) An individual who is or has been a patient or resident is entitled to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of his or her medical record upon request in accordance with the medical records access act, 2004 PA 47, MCL 333.26261 to 333.26271. Except as otherwise permitted or required under the health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, or regulations promulgated under that act, 45 CFR parts 160 and 164, a third party shall not be given a copy of the patient's or resident's medical record without prior authorization of the patient or resident.

(c) A patient or resident is entitled to confidential treatment of personal and medical records, and may refuse their release to a person outside the health facility or agency except as required because of a transfer to another health care facility, as required by law or third party payment contract, or as permitted or required under the health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, or regulations promulgated under that act, 45 CFR parts 160 and 164.

(d) A patient or resident is entitled to privacy, to the extent feasible, in treatment and in caring for personal needs with consideration, respect, and full recognition of his or her dignity and individuality.

(e) A patient or resident is entitled to receive adequate and appropriate care, and to receive, from the appropriate individual within the health facility or agency, information about his or her medical condition, proposed course of treatment, and prospects for recovery, in terms that the patient or resident can understand, unless medically contraindicated as documented in the medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services.

(f) A patient or resident is entitled to refuse treatment to the extent provided by law and to be informed of the consequences of that refusal. If a refusal of treatment prevents a health facility or agency or its staff from providing appropriate care according to ethical and professional standards, the relationship with the patient or resident may be terminated upon reasonable notice.

(g) A patient or resident is entitled to exercise his or her rights as a patient or resident and as a citizen, and to this end may present grievances or recommend changes in policies and services on behalf of himself or herself or others to the health facility or agency staff, to governmental officials, or to another person of his or her choice within or outside the health facility or agency, free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal. A patient or resident is entitled to information about the health facility's or agency's policies and procedures for initiation, review, and resolution of patient or resident complaints.

(h) A patient or resident is entitled to information concerning an experimental procedure proposed as a part of his or her care and has the right to refuse to participate in the experimental procedure without jeopardizing his or her continuing care.

(i) A patient or resident is entitled to receive and examine an explanation of his or her bill regardless of the source of payment and to receive, upon request, information relating to financial assistance available through the health facility or agency.

(j) A patient or resident is entitled to know who is responsible for and who is providing his or her direct care, is entitled to receive information concerning his or her continuing health needs and alternatives for meeting those needs, and to be involved in his or her discharge planning, if appropriate.

(k) A patient or resident is entitled to associate and have private communications and consultations with his or her physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services, attorney, or any other person of his or her choice and to send and receive personal mail

unopened on the same day it is received at the health facility or agency, unless medically contraindicated as documented in the medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services. A patient's or resident's civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions and the right to knowledge of available choices, shall not be infringed and the health facility or agency shall encourage and assist in the fullest possible exercise of these rights. A patient or resident may meet with, and participate in, the activities of social, religious, and community groups at his or her discretion, unless medically contraindicated as documented in the medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services.

(l) A patient or resident is entitled to be free from mental and physical abuse and from physical and chemical restraints, except those restraints authorized in writing by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services for a specified and limited time or as are necessitated by an emergency to protect the patient or resident from injury to self or others, in which case the restraint may only be applied by a qualified professional who shall set forth in writing the circumstances requiring the use of restraints and who shall promptly report the action to the attending physician or physician's assistant. In case of a chemical restraint, a physician shall be consulted within 24 hours after the commencement of the chemical restraint.

(m) A patient or resident is entitled to be free from performing services for the health facility or agency that are not included for therapeutic purposes in the plan of care.

(n) A patient or resident is entitled to information about the health facility or agency rules and regulations affecting patient or resident care and conduct.

(o) A patient or resident is entitled to adequate and appropriate pain and symptom management as a basic and essential element of his or her medical treatment.

(3) The following additional requirements for the policy described in subsection (2) apply to licensees under parts 213 and 217:

(a) The policy shall be provided to each nursing home patient or home for the aged resident upon admission, and the staff of the facility shall be trained and involved in the implementation of the policy.

(b) Each nursing home patient may associate and communicate privately with persons of his or her choice. Reasonable, regular visiting hours, which shall be not less than 8 hours per day, and which shall take into consideration the special circumstances of each visitor, shall be established for patients to receive visitors. A patient may be visited by the patient's attorney or by representatives of the departments named in section 20156, during other than established visiting hours. Reasonable privacy shall be afforded for visitation of a patient who shares a room with another patient. Each patient shall have reasonable access to a telephone. A married nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to meet privately with his or her spouse in a room that assures privacy. If both spouses are residents in the same facility, they are entitled to share a room unless medically contraindicated and documented in the medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services.

(c) A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to retain and use personal clothing and possessions as space permits, unless to do so would infringe upon the rights of other patients or residents, or unless medically contraindicated as documented in the medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services. Each nursing home patient or home for the aged resident shall be provided with reasonable space. At the request of a patient, a nursing home shall provide for the safekeeping of personal effects, funds, and other property of a patient in accordance with section 21767, except that a nursing home is not required to provide for the safekeeping of a property that would impose an unreasonable burden on the nursing home.

(d) A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to the opportunity to participate in the planning of his or her medical treatment. The attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services shall fully inform the nursing home patient of the patient's medical condition unless medically contraindicated as documented in the medical record by a physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services. Each nursing home patient shall be afforded the opportunity to discharge himself or herself from the nursing home.

(e) A home for the aged resident may be transferred or discharged only for medical reasons, for his or her welfare or that of other residents, or for nonpayment of his or her stay, except as provided by title XVIII or title XIX. A nursing home patient may be transferred or discharged only as provided in sections 21773 to 21777. A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to be given reasonable advance notice to ensure orderly transfer or discharge. Those actions shall be documented in the medical record.

(f) A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to be fully informed before or at the

time of admission and during stay of services available in the facility, and of the related charges including any charges for services not covered under title XVIII, or not covered by the facility's basic per diem rate. The statement of services provided by the facility shall be in writing and shall include those required to be offered on an as-needed basis.

(g) A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to manage his or her own financial affairs, or to have at least a quarterly accounting of personal financial transactions undertaken in his or her behalf by the facility during a period of time the patient or resident has delegated those responsibilities to the facility. In addition, a patient or resident is entitled to receive each month from the facility an itemized statement setting forth the services paid for by or on behalf of the patient and the services rendered by the facility. The admission of a patient to a nursing home does not confer on the nursing home or its owner, administrator, employees, or representatives the authority to manage, use, or dispose of a patient's property.

(h) A nursing home patient or a person authorized by the patient in writing may inspect and copy the patient's personal and medical records. The records shall be made available for inspection and copying by the nursing home within a reasonable time, not exceeding 1 week, after the receipt of a written request.

(i) If a nursing home patient desires treatment by a licensed member of the healing arts, the treatment shall be made available unless it is medically contraindicated, and the medical contraindication is justified in the patient's medical record by the attending physician or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services.

(j) A nursing home patient has the right to have his or her parents, if a minor, or his or her spouse, next of kin, or patient's representative, if an adult, stay at the facility 24 hours a day if the patient is considered terminally ill by the physician responsible for the patient's care or a physician's assistant to whom the physician has delegated the performance of medical care services.

(k) Each nursing home patient shall be provided with meals that meet the recommended dietary allowances for that patient's age and sex and that may be modified according to special dietary needs or ability to chew.

(l) Each nursing home patient has the right to receive representatives of approved organizations as provided in section 21763.

(4) A nursing home, its owner, administrator, employee, or representative shall not discharge, harass, or retaliate or discriminate against a patient because the patient has exercised a right protected under this section.

(5) In the case of a nursing home patient, the rights enumerated in subsection (2)(c), (g), and (k) and subsection (3)(d), (g), and (h) may be exercised by the patient's representative.

(6) A nursing home patient or home for the aged resident is entitled to be fully informed, as evidenced by the patient's or resident's written acknowledgment, before or at the time of admission and during stay, of the policy required by this section. The policy shall provide that if a patient or resident is adjudicated incompetent and not restored to legal capacity, the rights and responsibilities set forth in this section shall be exercised by a person designated by the patient or resident. The health facility or agency shall provide proper forms for the patient or resident to provide for the designation of this person at the time of admission.

(7) This section does not prohibit a health facility or agency from establishing and recognizing additional patients' rights.

(8) As used in this section:

(a) "Patient's representative" means that term as defined in section 21703.

(b) "Title XVIII" means title XVIII of the social security act, 42 USC 1395 to 1395kkk-1.

(c) "Title XIX" means title XIX of the social security act, 42 USC 1396 to 1396w-5.

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