

## Patient Responsibilities (continued)

- Report unexpected changes in your condition to the responsible practitioner
- Respect hospital property, policies and regulations
- Finalise all accounts pertaining to your hospitalisation
- Provide information concerning your ability to pay for services
- Direct any complaint to a staff member so that appropriate steps can be taken to remedy your concerns.

## Further Information

The Private Patients' Hospital Charter, available from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, provides information about what it means to be a private patient in a public hospital, a private hospital or a day hospital facility.

Copies of this Charter are available in both Mater Health Services North Queensland hospitals and at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).

## About Mater Health Services North Queensland

Mater Health Services North Queensland is the largest private hospital in North Queensland and is part of the Mercy Partners group of Hospitals. Our Hospitals are fully accredited by an authorised accrediting agency under the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, National Standards.

For further information about Mater Health Services North Queensland, visit [matertsv.org.au](http://matertsv.org.au) or call 04 4727 4444.



## Your Rights and Responsibility

We encourage all patients in our hospitals to be aware of their rights and responsibilities.



## Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights

The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights (the Charter) describes the rights of patients and other people using the Australian health system. Mater Health Services North Queensland recognises and acknowledges this charter as critical towards achieving a safe and high quality health system. For further information regarding the “Charter” please visit [www.safetyandquality.gov.au](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au)

## Patient Rights

### As a patient in any of our hospitals, you have a right to:

- Be treated with considerate and respectful care throughout your hospital stay regardless of race, creed, sex or nationality
- Be involved in the planning of your care from admission through to discharge, taking into account your cultural and religious beliefs
- Know the name of the doctor who has primary responsibility for coordinating your care
- Be informed of the names and functions of all people involved in providing your care
- Receive information regarding your condition and treatment options, in non-technical language, from those involved in your care before giving consent to treatment. This information should include treatment options for your condition, any associated risks and advantages of each option and expected outcomes, and the consequences of receiving no treatment
- Refuse a recommended treatment, test or procedure, unless the law prohibits this
- Leave the hospital/clinic against the advice of your doctor at your own risk, unless the law prohibits this. On leaving, you will be required to complete hospital discharge forms and acknowledge responsibility for your actions
- Know the plans for discharge from hospital and any continuing healthcare you may require including the time and location for appointments and the name of the doctor who will be providing the follow-up care

- You also have the right to assistance with discharge planning by qualified hospital staff to ensure appropriate post-hospital placement
- Refuse the presence of a particular healthcare provider, unless clinically indicated
- Seek a second medical opinion
- Decline to participate in teaching and research activities
- Nominate a person(s) to speak on your behalf if you are unable to do so
- Have a family member or support person present when you receive information about your condition, where possible and therapeutically appropriate
- Be informed of the estimated costs prior to any treatment. Before your admission, our staff will discuss with you the likely cost of any health fund and gap payments that you may incur
- Confidentiality of medical records and personal details to the extent permitted by law
- Expect safety where practices and environment are concerned
- Privacy for visits during established patient visiting hours
- Make a complaint about any aspect of your hospital stay, and have it dealt with promptly without penalty to your treatment

### These rights can be achieved by:

- Discussing matters with your doctor or any hospital staff member looking after you in an attempt to achieve a solution
- Bringing the matter to the attention of the nurse unit manager or director of nursing of the hospital if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by other means
- Contacting your State’s Private Health Ombudsman
- Asking questions and seeking clarification in regards to matters that concern you
- Requesting information regarding any likely out of pocket expenses for services provided by the hospital prior to your admission

## Patient Responsibilities

### As a patient in any of our hospitals, you have a responsibility to:

- Respect the dignity and rights of other patients, visitors and hospital staff
- Cooperate with staff in the provision and planning of your health status and admission
- Provide accurate and complete information about present complaints, past illnesses, hospitalisations, medications and other matters relating to your health
- Inform the hospital if you have any Advanced Health Directive or Power of Attorney for any health and/or personal matters
- Contact the hospital should you wish to cancel or postpone your admission or if you are unable to arrive at the scheduled time
- Tell staff and/or your doctor immediately if you have any concerns about your condition or if there is any aspect of your care that you do not understand
- Inform staff of any particular requirements relating to your ethnic, cultural or spiritual beliefs
- Understand that there may be a reason why a service is unavailable at a particular time
- Follow the treatment plan recommended by the practitioner primarily responsible for your care. This may include following instructions of nurses and allied health personnel as they carry out the coordinated plan of care and implement the responsible practitioner’s orders
- Accept the consequences of your actions if you refuse treatment or do not follow the practitioner’s instructions