

SAFETY FIRST PROGRAM: It's OK to Ask!

YOU are our main priority and at the center of our healthcare team.

With our Safety First Program, you play a vital role in ensuring your own safe care. Research has shown that patients who take an active role in decisions about their healthcare are much more likely to have positive outcomes. Here are a few simple ways you can become an active, involved and informed member of your healthcare team.



- 1. Check your hospital ID bracelet to ensure the accuracy of your name, doctor's name and your date of birth.** Wear your ID bracelet at all times. If it falls off or is incorrect, please ask one of the staff members for a new one. Make sure all staff members check your bracelet to confirm your name and date of birth before any procedure or test.
- 2. Pay attention to the care you receive.** Make sure you are getting the right treatments and medications at the right time. If something doesn't "seem or feel right," remember **"IT'S OK TO ASK!"**
- 3. We welcome your gentle reminders that all caregivers wash their hands and wear gloves.**
- 4. Ask about an Advance Directive.** This form enables you to guide your family and physician if you are unable to communicate with them. The Advance Directive allows you to control the extent to which life-sustaining medical measures will be used. This can help you protect your loved ones from being forced to make difficult decisions. All adults can ask for an Advance Directive.
- 5. Educate yourself about your diagnosis, medical tests and treatment plan.** Read all medical forms before signing anything.
- 6. Ask a trusted family member or friend to be your advocate.** This person acts as a second pair of eyes and ears for you.
- 7. Know your medications and allergies and make sure your doctor knows them also.**
- 8. Speak up!! Communication is key.** We welcome your questions and it is our job to give answers you can understand. If you think of a question and your nurse or doctor is not around, write it down to ask them later.
- 9. Use only a hospital, clinic or other healthcare organization that has gone through strict evaluations for quality and safety standards.** We strive daily to take safety measures above and beyond national standards.
- 10. Take part in all decisions about your treatment.**

If you have any questions or safety concerns, please feel free to contact a patient representative at _____.