



## Consumer Health Decisions # 5

### Rights and Responsibilities of Patients and Providers

It is important to develop a strong relationship with your health care provider so that you can receive the best health care possible and health care providers can offer the best health care possible.

A strong relationship between patients and health care providers assumes that both parties have rights and responsibilities.

#### Patient rights:

- Respect and dignity
- Complete information in understandable terms
- Thorough explanation of prevention and treatment options
- Refusal of medical treatment
- Confidentiality

#### Patient responsibilities:

- Honesty
- Provide accurate and complete information
- Be realistic about the limits of health care
- Take an active role in health care

#### Health Care Provider Rights:

- Respect
- Receive accurate and complete information
- Expect follow through on treatment plan

#### Health Care Provider Responsibilities:

- Provide complete information and options for care
- Speak with patient (not at patient)

As in life relationships, both parties are responsible for a healthy patient/provider relationship.

#### Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Role play asking your health care provider to rephrase when words are used that you do not understand the conversation. Role play refusing a procedure or treatment your health care provider recommends.
- What other rights do you have as a patient?
- How do you feel about the statement “your health care provider may not be able to “fix” every health issue”?
- How would you handle a health care provider that seemed very rushed during your appointment and/or you felt was not listening to you?